

DUNESLETTER

Autumn 2022 | Volume 189

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

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Tune into WOMT for

"Our Good Nature"

on Wednesdays

at 11:25 am

Dear Friends,

After a wonderful summer, it's time to move into a busy fall.

As you may know, we have begun a weekly radio show on WOMT called Our Good Nature (Wednesday mornings at 11:25). If you can't tune in to hear us live, it's also available as a podcast

on our website. The shows are educational snippets about local nature and goings-on at Woodland Dunes.

Our new solar array will be installed this fall, bringing our renewable energy capacity to more than half the usage of the Nature Center. In

the face of climate change, we feel it's important to utilize the abundant solar energy that falls upon us. Thanks to those who donated toward this project. There is still a bit of funding needed to fully pay for it - if you would like to help, please contact us.

The wild rice we seeded in the marsh last November grew. We found several areas with newly established wild rice growing and flowering, ready to produce seed to benefit wildlife. Wild rice is an annual grass of wetlands that was here before settlement and the subsequent alteration of rivers and their water quality. Wild rice was very important to native people of the region, and for those two reasons we would like to re-establish the plant on our property. This year we would like to increase our seeding by 10 times the amount we did last year, and we're inviting the public to help. In November, we'll have a program in which we'll discuss the importance of wildlife and indigenous

Americans. We'll plant wild rice from our boardwalk and have rice cooked in a traditional way for people to taste.

Speaking of the Cattail Trail boardwalk, we're looking into replacing it, seeking some large grants and a contractor to make it wider, more level, and truly accessible to all. We're in the

initial stages of this project, which will likely cost more than \$200,000. Cattail Trail is our most heavily used and enjoyed trail at our Center. Its excellent habitat and access to several different wetland communities makes it a sought- after birding, walking, and kayak-launching destination.

We are also planning for the replacement of the short boardwalk at the south end of Trillium Trail, near the intersection with the Ice Age Trail, widening and adding railings.

Finally, we are concerned at the designation of the monarch butterfly as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. We have many monarchs on our property because we manage 300 acres for native grassland species. We also have areas of abundant milkweed growth. Habitat, lots of it, not tainted with pesticides is what is needed to sustain the species. Anyone can grow wildflowers, so we will have packets of seeds for a simple pollinator planting available for free to anyone who visits while supplies last.

Enjoy the beautiful fall. We look forward to seeing you!

~ Jim Knickelbine, Executive Director

Stories from The Herbarium: H. C. Benke Hermann Conrad Benke

November 26, 1869 - December 8, 1946

Hermann's family came to Wisconsin in the 1890s settling just west of Collins on Highway JJ. His family owned a general store where Hermann worked as a storekeeper and postmaster. Later on, Hermann worked as a teacher in the nearby town of Potter, allowing him to spend the summers traveling. As he traveled on his trusty horse Jackson, Hermann took photographs and collected plants. In 1915 he moved to Illinois where he worked as a botany professor at the University of Chicago. During this time he traveled back and forth between Chicago and Manitowoc, taking photographs as he went. Hermann was always careful to write names, locations, and dates on the back of the photographs. His careful documentation has been incredibly useful in modern research, allowing us to see what/who his photographs were specifically of, where they were taken, and when. This has helped us understand our local history here in Manitowoc County by seeing what this area looked like in the past. The Manitowoc Historical Society has some of his photographs and said "it was a love of photography that led Hermann C. Benke (also spelled Behnke) to capture Manitowoc County and the surrounding communities unlike anyone else at the turn of the 20th century. Chances are if you've seen a photo from that period, it's probably a Benke photo postcard." Most of his photos that still exist today are in the form of postcards, a trend of the early 1900s. Some of his postcards even sold over 10,000 copies! Hermann also took many trips around the country to collect plants. His plant collecting and plant photographs have helped scientists see how

plant ranges have changed over the years, by seeing where plants were growing back then compared with where those same plants grow now. Relating to our local history, Hermann had several collecting trips to Manitowoo County. He said of one of those trips "A jaunt was made into the wonderful region,



northeast of Two Rivers, where evergreen species parallel the sand dunes of Lake Michigan for miles." Though he may not have known how important his photographs would be in modern times, we are thankful for his careful documentation of the past for allowing us to see a glimpse at what our local community was like almost a hundred years ago. In addition to all of that, Hermann was also quite the jokester. In the photograph provided he posed with a cabbage and later tinted the image to make it look like a giant hybrid rose (1923).



Thank you to VT Industries and volunteers for sponsoring and planting 25 trees on our preserve!



Our summer season flew by, and we are excited to report all 2,500 trees and shrubs are in the ground as of August 2nd. We focused the planting on a 26-acre area that the Ice Age trail bisects. After crossing a particular swale with many trees and shrubs, the interns, as well as several volunteers completed this large task. THANK YOU for your tenacious work, planting, hauling and cutting chicken wire for tree protection cages. As a reminder these trees and shrubs are planted to mitigate

the effects of the emerald ash borer, which is an invasive insect that kill all ash trees in the genus, Fraxinus. This project is funded by a US Forest Service grant which will continue through the end of 2023. So, more trees and shrubs for 2023 will be arriving!

With planting complete, we have shifted gears to focus on invasive control. We are targeting Japanese barberry, honeysuckle, and buckthorn. Great progress is being made on the interior of our

Conifer Trail loop as well as a patch along the Ice Age Trail near the tree planting.

For the fall we will be planning and preparing to identify up to 100 acres of barberry that will be treated over the next two years. We will also be working on a forest management plan for the entire property. This plan will help us prioritize habitat work for the next 10 to 15 years.

- Sue Crowley, Land Management Coordinator

Thank You!

Memoriams/Honoriams

Donations are recognized on a quarterly basis. If you don't see your

donation on here, it missed the cutoff and will be in the next issue.

In Memory of Cynthia Bayless Cynthia Bayless Estate/ Susan Nassif

In Memory of Robert & Lois Bush Patrick & Kathryn Taddy

In Memory of Will Erdman Tom & Betsy Kocourek

*In Memory of Tom Gintner*Nan & Phil Hallock

In Memory of Lee Knickelbine Gary & Christine Blimel

In Memory of Joan Krause

Thank you.

George Krause

In Memory of Thomas Rees Jr Philip & Margaret Rees

In Memory of Donald Swoboda Carol Martin

In Memory of Grace Todhunter Mona Moen

In Honor of Annette Henry Gerald & Patricia Henry

In Honor of Norb Pritzel
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Manitowoc County Habitat for Humanity Steve Thomas Tom & Betsy Kocourek Chuck & Marilyn Sontag

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Titus Seiheimer

How long have you volunteered at Woodland Dunes and what made you become involved?

I've been partnering with Woodland Dunes and helping out with water-related projects since I moved to the area ten years ago to work for Wisconsin Sea Grant. Jim invited me to join the property committee soon after and I have been able to provide input there too.

What do you most enjoy about being involved with Woodland Dunes?

I love working with the staff on new projects to improve the streams and wetlands of the area managed by Woodland Dunes, as well as doing programs for the different learning series about the local fish and aquatic resources. I always enjoy having a random idea about something and then watching it come true. We planted wild rice in 2021 and it actually started growing in 2022!

Favorite Fish

I have a hard time picking just one fish, but if I had to pick my favorite fish at Woodland Dunes, it would be the Central Mudminnow (*Umbra limi*). These small wetland fish are more closely related to the large northern pike and muskellunge than to the minnows that it resembles.

What are some of your favorite pastimes or hobbies?

I enjoy spending time hiking, biking, swimming, and paddling in and around Woodland Dunes and the region with my family. The preserve and nature center are such a wonderful part of the community and a true gem for the lakeshore.

Words of wisdom for other volunteers?

There are many opportunities to help out at Woodland Dunes and in the community, so find something fun that you enjoy and do it!



France meets Woodland Dunes

Say hello to Virgimie and Michel from Montargis, France. Montargis is about an hour south of Paris and has a population of nearly 15,000 people.

Virgimie and Michel have been exploring the Midwest and will spend time in Green Bay and Door County yet while they are here — staying at the Par 5 Resort in Mishicot.

We very much enjoyed their shared conversation and friendliness while visiting us at the Dunes. We hope they'll come back to see us again in the future!

Red-shouldered Hawk Thriving at Woodland Dunes

By Nancy Nabak

The state-threatened Red-shouldered hawk has been calling Woodland Dunes its home for over 20 years, but no one has found its nest — until last year.

By pure luck, it was discovered while planting 2,500 trees in the Preserve.

Red-shouldered hawk expert, John Jacobs, was notified and a series of interesting activities followed.

- July 2, 2021: nesting adult female RSHA captured and fitted with a UHF logger.
- July 27: Over 100 locations downloaded enough to determine her summer range for 2021.
- April 1, 2022: two RSHA at nest, one adult, possibly male and a larger juvenal bird, female? (brown plumage). Data download from female unsuccessful.
- April 5: visit from Jacobs and another data download attempt, unsuccessful.
- May 9: visit from Jacobs and data download attempt, success this time. Female at the nest. She must have displaced the juvenal female seen in April.

From Jacobs:

"Analyzing the data showed that there were over 1,000 locations during the summer and fall of 2021 within her summer range. She left Woodland Dunes on Oct. 26, 2021 and migrated south along the coast of Lake Michigan. By Oct. 30th she was just south of Sheboygan near Cedar Grove. She continued migrating south arriving in east central Alabama near Tuscaloosa on Nov. 26., 31 days to migrate 787 miles.

She wintered in Alabama for 96 days, until March 2, 2022, then migrated north.

She reached Wisconsin on March 16 at Watertown, but it took her 17 more days to get to Seymour (4/3/2022), and then four more days to get just north of the Reforestation Camp on April 7. She was not at Woodland Dunes when I was trying to locate her. I'm not sure exactly when she returned to WD but it appears to be between the 10th and 15th of April, at least 40 some days to return to her nest at WD."

But wait, there's more!

Mid- May: staff checked their trail camera and found a fisher a quarter of a mile from the nesting tree. We contacted Goshawk expert, Tom Erdman, because we were familiar with his tree-guard use to protect raptors from predators. Erdman immediately offered help and donated the necessary equipment and instructions to get one up. The guard was installed shortly thereafter.

June 19: Jacobs and his assistant banded three, 32-day old chicks from the nest. A few days later, he caught and fitted the male with a logger and is now tracking his activities.

Mid-July: Woodland Dunes trail cameras were checked again. Video recorded a raccoon and a fisher both at the base of the nesting tree. The raccoon attempted to climb the tree with no luck. The fisher sniffed and milled around the base for a bit. According to Erdman, "It may have been looking for prey remains. We often find fisher scat at Goshawk sites right on the butcher blocks used by the adults and later the young."



Of interesting note, Erdman also thought the fisher at the base of the tree looked different, smaller, than the first one recorded. Maybe a female? Offspring? (At least two other sightings within the last year have been noted and recorded by visitors while at the Dunes.)

Matthew Hanneman, a graduate student from UW- Stevens Point, is working on this project with Jacobs. They hope to present their computer mapping information along with the downloaded data for future presentations and publication.

We're thrilled that we can assist both science and this incredible bird at Woodland Dunes.

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SUMMER INTERNS



L to R: Andrea Auel, Mary-Stuart Slack, Emma Campbell, Frances Meyer, Haley Vanne, Nadia Neziri. Not pictured: Grace Schumacher.

Andrea Auel The summer moved by so fast, it feels like I showed up for my first day of work just yesterday! While the majority of my days were spent planting trees to mitigate the effects of the emerald ash borer, the experiences I have had as an intern went far beyond digging holes and caging trees. Some days I would find myself dodging baby skunks whilst mowing the lawn, other days I would be getting pooped on while banding geese with the DNR. This summer was quite the wild ride and I will always cherish all the amazing experiences I've had here. It is because I love this field of work that I am pursuing a major in Environmental Science at UW-Green Bay. The experiences I have had here and the new friends I've made have made me more excited for a future working with nature.

Emma Campbell This summer I had the wonderful opportunity to be the environmental education intern here at Woodland Dunes. In this role, I got to do so many cool things in addition to my duties, including a bird survey, a bat survey, and even goose banding! I was also involved in helping prep, plan, and lead many of the summer programs and camps. In doing so, I gained a variety of skills such as creating my own crafts and activities, writing clear instructions, and learning how to identify invertebrates in the pond. Along with the skills I picked up, I also had many opportunities to lead activities and teach. As I start my freshman year at Goshen College this fall, I am looking forward to putting all of those skills and experiences into action as I pursue a career as an elementary school teacher! This summer will always have a special place in my memory and maybe one day a place in my classroom.

Frances Meyer Returning for a second summer has been another rewarding experience. Similar to my first summer, the main goal was to plant 2,500 trees, with species ranging from the tiny sugar maples to the much taller basswoods. After spending many hours planting in the forest I understand the urgency more than ever to provide a new forest canopy in place of the dying ash trees. Being here a second summer has allowed me to learn more about the species of plants and animals that inhabit the dunes. I have especially enjoyed going on bird surveys, which have helped me to recognize several different bird calls and expand on the bird species I had learned the previous year. I plan to use the new knowledge I have learned this summer and apply it to my studies as a Wildlife Ecology major in my third year at UW Madison.

Grace Schumacher Becoming an intern at Woodland Dunes has been a great opportunity for me to learn about the unique biodiversity of the area. I have enjoyed learning about the different animals, trees, plants, and shrubs that grow in the nearby forests. This knowledge will be beneficial to me as I continue my journey learning about Environmental Science at UW-Green Bay. Growing up in Two Rivers, I have visited Woodland Dunes on many occasions, but this internship has opened my eyes to what all occurs here. Every year, 2,500 trees are planted to help with the effect of the Emerald Ash Borer. Alongside this project, we have also worked on removing invasive species such as Honeysuckle, Barberry, and Buckthorn. It is hard work, but it pays off with knowledge and great experiences!

Haley Vanne I am incredibly grateful for my internship opportunity at Woodland Dunes. My time here has helped to build/improve land management skills regarding both native and invasive tree, plant, and wildlife identification. Most days are spent working towards local forest habitat rehabilitation - I've also had a few neat opportunities to perform bat surveys, river water testing, and assist the DNR in goose-banding projects. The list goes on, there's something new to see every day! Between staff, volunteers, and fellow interns, I've been able to meet and connect with so many wonderful people. I can't wait to keep in touch with my new friends. I know that the connections I've made here at Woodland Dunes will continue to help me with my classes at UW-Milwaukee and in the future!

Mary-Stuart Slack Traveling from Virginia to work as a land management intern this summer was a great idea. I gained a lot of experience with many different skills at Woodland Dunes. Many days were spent planting trees in order to combat the emerald ash borer and the death of the ash trees. When the ash trees inevitably die, it'll be important for other species to be ready to fill their place in the ecosystem. Alongside this main issue, my fellow interns and I assisted in bird banding, bat surveys, and working on removing invasive species from the area. As a conservation biology major from George Mason University, all of this experience will be extremely helpful for me going forward. I'm incredibly thankful for this opportunity and for Woodland Dunes and the work done here.

Nadia Neziri Working as a land management intern at Woodland Dunes has been a very fulfilling, knowledgeable, and fun opportunity. We removed invasive plants (honeysuckle and barberry) and learned a lot about all kinds of invasive and native plants along the way. Most of the time the other interns and I were planting trees of all different species to restore the ash forest. We participated in a few bat surveys as well, which was actually quite interesting. I'm not particularly fond of bats, so at first I wasn't terribly intrigued, but I ended up loving it. One of the coolest things that I was able to witness here was a big snapping turtle laying eggs in the parking lot. I've always wanted to see a turtle laying eggs, so I was overjoyed to experience that. I'm majoring in Environmental Policy and minoring in Environmental Science, and I'm excited to apply what I learned here to my classes at UW-Green Bay. Overall, I'm super grateful that I was able to be a part of this organization for the summer. I really enjoyed my time here.



The Butterfly & Bee Garden

In the last Dunesletter I wrote about how we've been waiting for the woody prairie shrub called Leadplant (Amorpha canescens) to mature so we could enjoy its purple blossoms. I'm happy to report that it indeed has grown in the summer heat and is showing off its beautiful spikes right now, along with many other plants, all a-buzz with bees! We hope you've had a chance to visit the garden multiple times to enjoy the continuous bursts of color and pollinator activity.

Soon you will also have the opportunity to view a stunning piece of glass artwork in the garden, created by Kim Lyon. Eighteen months ago one of our steadfast volunteers, Joanna Gregorski, passed away. Friends

and family donated money in her name, and it was decided that this piece of artwork would enhance the garden in



her honor. Rob Roidt is creating the wooden structure to hold the artwork along the west side of the garden for all to enjoy. A big thank you to Jenene Garey and Christopher Baugniet for moving this project forward.

- Wendy Lutzke, Butterfly & Bee Garden Coordinator

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U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

Registration is required for all programs. Please note the register by dates and program location. To register, email Jess at jessicaj@woodlanddunes.org or call 920-793-4007.

Friday Morning Bird Walks



8:30-9:30am Friday, September 2nd: Meet at pavilion behind Nature Center Friday, September 9th: Meet at Ice Age Trail behind Aurora

Join a staff member for a guided bird walk along the trails at Woodland Dunes. Look and listen for migrants and resident birds during the fall migration. Registration required, space is limited. Bring your binoculars and be prepared for the weather/bugs. Walks are weather dependent. Sponsored by the Winston Group and Next Era.

Monarch Survey at the Bugler Preserve

Friday, September 2nd

Woodland Dunes has 300 acres of native grassland and pollinator habitat which provides food and cover for many insects, including the monarch butterfly. Join staff to learn about monarchs, observe and count them in all stages as part of a survey. We will also tag monarch if tags are available. Participants will be given seeds to start their own butterfly garden. Registration required by Wed, Aug 31st. Program will take place outdoors at the Bugler Preserve. Sponsored by the Winston Group and Next Era.

Raising a Wild Child **Preschool Program**

Thursday, September 8th: Butterflies Thursday, October 13th: Camouflage Thursday, November 10th: Turkeys Session 1: 9:00-10:15am

Session 2: 10:45am-Noon 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! Children must be accompanied by an adult. Dress for the weather. Registration required, space is limited in each session. Sponsored by the Edward Jones Office of Carla Liban.

Hiking Through the History of **Woodland Dunes**

Friday, September 9th 11:00am-Noon

and Next Era.

This program filled quickly in the summer, so we are offering another session this fall! Enjoy a guided hike along one of our trails and walk through time. As we walk, we will talk about the history of Woodland Dunes starting from the 1800s to the present day. Space is limited, registration required by Wednesday, September 7th. Meet at Willow Trail. Sponsored by The Winston Group

Saturday Fall Bird Walks

Saturday, September 17th 8:00am Saturday, October 15th 8:00am Join local birder, Joel Trick, for a guided bird walk along the trails at Woodland Dunes. Look and listen for

birds during the fall migration. Registration required, space is limited. Bring your binoculars and be prepared for the weather/bugs. Meet under the pavilion behind the Nature Center. Walks will last at least one hour, but may be longer if the birding is good. Walks are weather dependent. Sponsored by the Winston Group and Next Era.

Fall Star Parties

migrants and resident

Saturday, September 17th 8:30-9:30pm Saturday, October 15th 8:00-9:00pm Saturday, November 19th 7:00-8:00pm

View night sky constellations with astronomers Al and Ben, along with the moon and other celestial objects through the big telescope in the Sky Shed. Bring your own telescope if you need help figuring out how to set it up. Weather and sky conditions permitting. Program takes place outside the Nature Center. Registration required by the Thursday before each session. Sponsored by The Winston Group and Next Era.

Enchanted Forest

Saturday, October 1st 5:00-8:00pm 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. Modifications have been made to make this an entirely outdoor event with surprises around every turn! This is an educational evening, not a scary one. Please wear costumes and warm clothes. Space is limited, groups sizes are kept small. Registration required and opens Sept 19th. Call or email to reserve a tour time soon - times fill quickly!

Sponsored by Manitowoc Sunrise Optimist Club.

Twilight Walk

Wednesday, November 2nd 6:00-7:00pm

Enjoy a guided walk along one of the trails during the transition of day to night. Registration required, space is limited. Sponsored by the Winston Group and Next Era.

Wild Rice Restoration on the West Twin River

Tuesday, November 8th | 2:00pm Learn about the natural history of wild rice and efforts to restore it on the West Twin River. Also learn about the traditional importance of this plant to native people. Afterwards, everyone is welcome to help us plant wild rice seed along our boardwalk in the marsh and enjoy a tasty sample of a traditional wild rice dish. Program will take place outdoors, dress accordingly. Registration is required by Friday, November 4th. Sponsored by the Winston Group and Next Era.

Owl Week Update



Owl Fun All Week Long!

Many people swooped over to the Nature Center to learn about owls during Owl Week, July 24-30. From dissecting owl pellets, to learning about our saw-whet owl banding program, to meeting ambassador owls from Wildlife of Wisconsin, it was a hoot! Thank you to everyone who participated and to ATC for sponsoring!

Naturalist and UW-Green Bay Alumni, Hagenow, **Has Roots** at the Dunes

By Nancy Nabak

Meet Kari Hagenow. She's a professional warrior for our natural resources, and currently the manager for The Nature Conservancy in Door County and northeastern Wisconsin. She's also locally home grown - a Two Rivers native, and has lots of history with Woodland Dunes.

Hagenow started on her environmental path by receiving her undergraduate and then Master's Degree from UW-Green Bay in Environmental Science and Policy with an emphasis on Ecosystem Studies. She's got an impressive degree, yet she's humble about where she comes from.

"Being from Two Rivers, I fondly remember family outings there (Woodland Dunes), and school trips where we experienced the "frog room" in the barn, as we called it. In the back hall of the original nature center there is a mural of Saw-whet owl data and looked at several done by high school students in the early 2000's and yep, that cute little beaver was painted by yours truly."

Hagenow admits that she was the kind of kid who was always "muddy, dirty, wet, and covered in pieces of plants and seeds."

"Eco-U" was the perfect fit for Hagenow, as she desired to study biology and environmental sciences. As an undergrad, she explored different avenues. She took independent studies in microbiology/human biology and in botany. Three years later, she took a Principles of Ecology course with Dr. Amy Wolf. That course introduced her to land management and ecological restoration. "From there, I knew I wanted to pursue this as a career."

It was during her senior capstone project that she connected her academics with her past at Woodland Dunes.

"We were tasked with doing an independent research project. This meant designing the

project then collecting and analyzing our own data. Being determined to do something that might benefit Woodland Dunes, I approached Bernie Brouchoud (Director at the time) about research that I could do."

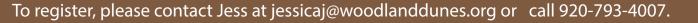
According to Hagenow, Brouchoud went into a closet and dug out a box with three-plus decades of hand-written "molt data cards" for netted Saw-whet owls. "He said he'd been meaning to dive into these for years but just never had the time, and it would be great if I could do something with them."

Her project needed to include a component of data collection, so her professor allowed for the time she spent netting owls that fall as part of her research. She digitized 10 years patterns in migration and molt as part of her project. Hagenow topped off her research by offering programs with her findings at the Dunes.

Fittingly, she took her first Ornithology course during her Master's program – which changed her life. "I am now a bird nerd and am lucky enough to incorporate bird studies into some of my work for The Nature Conservancy."

Hagenow says it's been ten years since she was a student, yet if it weren't for the education she received at UW-Green Bay and the connections she made, she wouldn't be in her position today.

Thankfully, we get to see tenacious and vibrant Hagenow at the Dunes every now and then - attending fundraising events and hiking the trails when time is on her side. And in true bird- nerd fashion, she's sporting her binoculars.





PO Box 486 | Two Rivers, WI 54241-0486

WOODLAND DUNES NATURE CENTER

Board of Directors

Headquarters & Nature Shop Hwy 310 West of Two Rivers

Hours

Monday - Friday: 9 am - 4 pm Saturday: 9 am - 12 pm (April - October)

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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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