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### FROM THE DIRECTOR

As November ushers us into the colder, darker months of December and January, I find myself drawn to the comfort of soup-making and hearty meals. This season also invites a period of introspection and quiet contemplation—best enjoyed by a warm fire, with a loyal dog or two curled up nearby. Looking back on our fifty-first year, I am deeply grateful for the meaningful interactions and connections we have formed with our community and beyond.

We continue to grow and settle into our addition to the nature center, which is now five years old. Over the past year, we published an annual report, made substantial updates to our website, and hosted two significant fundraising events: the ninth and final Tropical Blast, and the third annual fall heiknbrew. We expanded our educational programming, offering more opportunities than ever before for both children and adults. Additionally, we made notable progress on two multi-year projects: the Forget-Me-Not Creek restoration and enhancements to our cherished Cattail Trail boardwalk, with both projects together totaling approximately \$1.25 million.

Our commitment to conservation remains strong, as we continue to improve and enhance the diverse habitats within the Dunes. This is accomplished through careful management of invasive plant species and the planting of understory plants, shrubs, and trees. And if you have not visited since late October, you will notice that our nature gift shop has undergone a refreshing update, some of which is highlighted in this issue.

We recently achieved a significant milestone with our Lakeshore Community Foundation endowment surpassing the one-million-dollar mark. This

growth ensures the sustainability of Woodland Dunes for years to come. Contributions to the endowment are true legacy gifts, as our policy is to only use the allowable distribution, preserving the remaining balance unless an extreme need arises. Our goal is for the endowment's distribution to support at least 75% of our salary expenses; at present it funds about twelve percent.

Several important projects are currently underway. These include two roofing projects at the Brouchoud Field Station, as well as soffit, fascia, and insulation replacements on a storage building that suffered significant damage from wildlife. We also plan to update the Little Wings Play Area by replacing a worn fence and removing a large ash tree, affected by the emerald ash borer. Additional aging boardwalks, specifically on the Yellow Birch Trail boardwalk and the Black Cherry-Trillium Swale crossing, require attention. The Yellow Birch Trail is in the process of being dismantled, while the Black Cherry-Trillium Trail Swale crossing will receive upgraded approaches and stabilized railings in the coming year.

Another ongoing process is the search for our next development director. We are eager to welcome someone who can help broaden our connections both within our community and beyond. Our goal is to have the new Development Director join us in January. As February arrives and the days begin to lengthen, we look forward to renewed optimism, marked by the running of sap and the emergence of skunk cabbage.

Thank you for your continued investment in nature and for being a vital part of our journey!

~ Sue Crowley, Executive Director



Beech leaves

Photo by Kennedy Zittel

# Habitat Management



Photo by Max Kornetzke

Left is before and right is after treatment -removal of Buckthorn.

Throughout September and October weekly invasive species removal volunteer opportunities were held. With the help of seven volunteers, there were a total of 42 volunteer hours worked throughout September and October. Together we made significant impacts on invasive thickets along our Black Cherry and Trillium Trail as we continue our efforts to enhance native habitat across our preserve.

This winter we will continue to do more invasive species work, shifting our focus to our Bugler Preserve. Our goal is to knock back the barberry and honeysuckle in and

around our new deer enclosure this winter. We're making sure to focus our treatment in the dormant season so we have as little impact as possible on the native bumblebees that forage amongst the shrubs during the spring and summer. When the temperatures are above freezing, this can be a very effective time of year to make a big impact, with minimal bugs to pester us.

Looking onward to 2026, we will be wrapping up one of our larger US-Forest Service grants. In the spring we will be planting an additional 600 bareroot trees across the preserve. Some of these trees will replace

trees that didn't survive their first few seasons in previous planting projects, so we can make best use of cages that are out in the preserve already and in good condition. Others will go along Willow & Goldenrod Loop in areas where we have knocked back invasive buckthorn.

In the next few months we will also start our process of hiring next year's summer interns. We're planning to hire three to four interns for the summer, whose focus will be removing and treating invasive species across the preserve.

— Max Kornetzke, Land Manager



Photo by Max Kornetzke

Cutback flower stems

## The Butterfly & Bee Garden

The aesthetics of yard culture have imbued in many of us the desire for neat and tidy perennial beds that are free of leaves and last year's growth. But these elements, left in place, can help provide important, localized habitat for our native pollinators as well as visual interest in our landscaping. For those who may be reluctant to embrace a fully wild looking aesthetic, a balance can still be struck that provides habitat and aesthetic balance in your yard.

Leave the leaves. One year when I was first introduced to the ideas of native gardening, I tried leaving all the wet leaves on the lawn. As winter carried on, it refused to snow and most of those leaves quickly dried and blew all over the neighborhood. I imagine some neighbors were unimpressed with my attempt at being more nature-minded. I then decided that I don't want to annoy all of my neighbors, but I also want to provide some much needed urban habitat. I now do a few different things with those leaves.

I will rake and haul some to an area protected from winter winds and create habitat brush piles. These piles will usually have larger logs and branches organized around the perimeter and top to keep things in place and provide additional overwintering structure. You could try adding brick, fieldstone, or other edging to make this area look more intentional while adding fallen twigs and branches throughout the year to maintain structure.

In other places I will mow the leaves into a pile and use them as a mulch under shrubs and trees. Although this is less ideal for insect habitat, the slightly shredded leaves are much less likely to blow away and offers a practical use (mulch) for something that would otherwise end up at the local waste site. In my meadow beds, I usually leave them in place—the structure of perennials holds them through the winter. Once spring is in full swing and I am ready to cut things

back, I will rake them out and add them to the brush or compost pile.

Leave the old growth. Clipping back perennials in the fall is a standard practice that keeps things looking tidy and areas clear for next year's growth. However, the stems of perennials offer ideal habitat for overwintering insects, such as the many solitary bees native to Wisconsin.

If you're still itching to clean things up a bit before spring, leaving 12 to 18 inches of standing material can provide that much needed habitat. Otherwise, leave things be until temperatures have reached consistently above 50F, so pollinators have ample time to emerge from their slumber. I personally like to leave most areas depending on how they are looking and whether the perennials offer visual interest throughout the winter. Any materials I do cut back get added to my brush piles or compost, as intact as possible.

— Max Kornetzke, Butterfly Garden Coordinator

### Nature Center

P.O. Box 486  
3000 Hawthorne Avenue  
Two Rivers, WI 54241

### Hours

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

### Contact

Phone: (920) 793-4007

Website: woodlanddunes.org

Facebook: Look up Woodland Dunes in Two Rivers, WI and like our page!

### Staff

*Executive Director*  
Sue Crowley

*Assistant Director/  
Education Coordinator*  
Jess Johnsrud

*Land Manager*  
Max Kornetzke

*Naturalist*  
Kennedy Zittel

*Administrative Assistant*  
Jenifer Thompson

*Cleaning Specialist*  
Kyle Kraus

### Board of Directors

*President* Tom Kocourek  
*Vice President* Bruce Robinson  
*Treasurer* Troy Christiansen  
*Secretary* Mark McLaughlin

### Board Members

Rebecca Ablor  
Robert Gahl  
Andrea Holschbach  
Susan Knorr  
Lee Kummer  
Nick Lohr  
Dolly McNulty  
Titus Seilheimer  
Charles Sontag  
Kelly Vorrion

### Emeritus Directors

*Founders, previous board members, and previous executive directors are eligible for this honor.*

### 2025 Inductees

Helen Bleser  
Lyn Brouchoud  
Dr. Donald DeBruyn  
James Knickelbine  
Ellen Lewellen  
Robert Weinert  
John Woodcock  
Lucy Zeldenrust

### Legacy Leaders

*Designated to people who have passed away and have significantly contributed and shaped Woodland Dunes.*

### 2025 Inductees

Bernie Brouchoud  
Gordon Buboltz  
Helen Dickie Krivacek  
Winnie Smith  
Beverly Vareka

# NATURE CORNER



Palm Warbler

Linda Rappel

September through October, staff and volunteers conduct fall migration bird surveys. We count every bird we see and hear at various points across the preserve, showcasing what

species are using this land as a stopover site to rest and refuel before continuing on their journey. Though not everyone will leave, some birds stay year round. Others, like the dark-eyed juncos, stay and spend winter here

with us. This fall we had a total of 95 species documented, near the average but slightly on the higher side of our fall migration species totals.

By Kennedy Zittel, Naturalist

American Coot	Cedar Waxwing	Hairy Woodpecker	Pileated Woodpecker	Song Sparrow
American Crow	Chipping Sparrow	Hermit Thrush	Pine Siskin	Swainson's Thrush
American Goldfinch	Common Grackle	House Finch	Purple Finch	Swamp Sparrow
American Herring Gull	Common Yellowthroat	House Sparrow	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Tennessee Warbler
American Redstart	Cooper's Hawk	Indigo Bunting	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Turkey Vulture
American Robin	Dark-eyed Junco	Killdeer	Red-eyed Vireo	Veery
American Tree Sparrow	Double-crested Cormorant	Least Flycatcher	Red-headed Woodpecker	White-breasted Nuthatch
American White Pelican	Downy Woodpecker	Lincoln's Sparrow	Red-shouldered Hawk	White-crowned Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Eastern Bluebird	Magnolia Warbler	Red-tailed Hawk	White-throated Sparrow
Barn Swallow	Eastern Kingbird	Mallard	Red-winged Blackbird	Wild Turkey
Belted Kingfisher	Eastern Meadowlark	Mourning Dove	Ring-billed Gull	Wilson's Snipe
Black-capped Chickadee	Eastern Phoebe	Nashville Warbler	Rock Pigeon	Winter Wren
Blackpoll Warbler	Eastern Towhee	Northern Cardinal	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Wood Duck
Black-throated Green Warbler	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Northern Flicker	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Blue Jay	European Starling	Northern House Wren	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Blue-headed Vireo	Field Sparrow	Northern Parula	Rusty Blackbird	
Bonaparte's Gull	Fox Sparrow	Northern Saw-whet Owl*	Sanderling	
Brown Creeper	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Orange-crowned Warbler	Sandhill Crane	
Canada Goose	Gray Catbird	Osprey	Sedge Wren	
Cape May Warbler	Great Egret	Palm Warbler	Sharp-shinned Hawk	

\*Seen during owl banding, not during day surveys

## WINTER WISH LIST

Here is our winter wish list of needed items. Any donations are appreciated; please include your name and address with drop-offs at the front desk so we can thank you.

### Facilities

- 30 Gallon Trash Bags
- Bathroom Toilet Cleaner
- Blue Shop Towels

### Office

- Post-it Notes
- Dry-erase Markers
- Black Sharpie Markers
- AA Batteries
- AAA Batteries

### Education

- Colorful Construction Paper
- Colorful Cardstock
- Lamination Pouch Packs
- Thermal Laminator

### Wildlife

- Blackoil Sunflower Seed
- Suet Blocks
- Zoo Med Eco Earth (compressed coconut fiber expandable substrate)
- Clothespins-wooden
- Kid Scissors

### Habitat Management

- RW Rugged Wear -Water Resistant Leather Performance Work Gloves (Menards)  sizes: Large, XL
- Inspire - Heavy Duty Orange Nitrile Disposable Gloves 8 MIL Diamond Texture Grip

These gloves are important for herbicide work. (Amazon)

### Butterfly Garden

- Garden Pruners

## An Accountant's View of our Trails

For years I have walked the trails of Woodland Dunes. As the only employee who is not a naturalist my perceptions are different from my coworkers. Max discusses the specifics of a plant and I discuss the thorns that jabbed me yesterday. Jess talks of all the species of butterflies when I thought every butterfly was a monarch. I learned from Kennedy that there are many types of bees when I thought all bees were bumble bees. Sue, being our arborist (I now know that means a tree person), points out the difference in bark to help identify a tree. Though I try I still can't see the difference... it's all rough and brown. And now I know a Chimney Swift is a bird, not a bat.

I walk every trail every week, often more than once. It is my selfcare. And those walks give me cause to wonder about this nature stuff. I wonder why raspberry bushes fall on the path instead of staying in their own lane. Don't they know their thorns hurt? Why don't birds break a wing or get knocked about their little bird head flying around in the bushes? And really, deer? You cannot hear me walking and we almost run into each other?

It amazes me that week to week the trail looks different. Vegetation colors, flowers, and ripening fruit change rapidly. I think they know that summer is short in Wisconsin. It seems the plants start losing their colors in July. It is subtle, but I notice if I pay attention.

And the smells of nature change throughout the year. In winter the air has a crisp, clean odor. Spring smells of new vegetation. In summer the flowering plants have a variety of fragrances. Fall brings the smell of decaying vegetation. I wish I had the skills to describe in writing the smell of woods but I guess to experience it yourself is the best description.

Each trail has its interesting and special characteristics. Trillium Trail seems to



have such a variety of leaves. You should see the colors in October on that trail. The width of the trail varies throughout its path which makes it interesting. This is the trail that gives me the most thorn injuries. I rather like those bloody scrapes. Makes me feel like a true wilderness person, maybe even Jeremiah Johnson. Black Cherry joins Trillium for a time and then makes its own way. Black Cherry's bridge brings interesting frog sounds (I think they are frogs) along with a variety of birds I cannot even start to name.

Willow Trail is my favorite. It leads to the West Twin River but also is the path to Goldenrod and Horsetail trails. The end of the trail is special to me, a place that I spend with my grandkids and where I can sit on my mom's memorial bench. But to get there I walk past fields that contain a variety of flowers. Then I must go through a small area I call the Scary Section which is a narrow path with overhanging trees that block the sunlight. Reminds me of the Wizard of Oz movie.

I rather enjoy being an accountant who walks in the woods. I don't have to identify specific plants. I just get to enjoy the whole and make up my own stories about the woods. That to me is selfcare.

By Jenifer Thompson, administrative assistant

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Unless otherwise stated, registration is required for all programs. Please note registration deadlines and program location. To register, email Jess at [jessicaj@woodlanddunes.org](mailto:jessicaj@woodlanddunes.org) or call 920-793-4007.

## FAMILY PROGRAMS

### Raising a Wild Child

Thursday, December 11th: Deer  
Thursday, January 8th: Snowflakes  
Thursday, February 12th: Winter Birds  
10:45 am-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, we will spend as much time outside as possible. Registration required by the Monday before each session, space is limited. Sponsored by ATC.

### Solar System Family Drop-in Program

Monday, December 29th | 10:00 am-2:00 pm  
In a land not so far away, two out-of-this-world organizations are joining forces to offer local earthling families a chance to experience the solar system inside a portable planetarium! Camp Tapawingo and Woodland Dunes invite you to enjoy space-themed activities and crafts, the indoor education room and an outdoor activity too! Drop in anytime at Woodland Dunes from 10:00am-2:00pm for some astronomical sized fun for the whole family!

### Wild Families

10:00-11:00 am | Members: \$3/child, Non-members: \$4/child  
Wild Families is a program for families to explore various nature topics through hands-on activities, crafts, games, and hikes! This program is best for ages 6-12 years. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Some portions of this program will be led by staff while others will be for families to explore on their own. Dress for the weather - a majority of the program will take place outdoors. Registration is required by the Monday before each session, space is limited. Sponsored by ATC.

### Saturday, January 31st: Winter Detectives

Calling all nature detectives! Come and learn about what animals can be found in the preserve through various hands-on activities like scat and track identification, and test your knowledge on a short walk out on one of our trails.

### Saturday, February 28th: Campfire Fun

Gather around a campfire for some good old-fashioned fun. Make a snack, listen to stories, and enjoy games and activities. Unplug and "login" some fun memories!



## PROGRAMS FOR EVERYONE

### Candlelight Night

Saturday, February 7th  
6:00-8:00 pm  
Members: \$5/person; \$15/family  
Non-members: \$10/person; \$25/family

Enjoy a fun, relaxing evening with friends and family! Stroll along a candlelit trail, warm up by the fire with s'mores and hot beverages and visit our astronomer friends to view winter constellations (weather permitting). If there's snow, a limited number of snowshoes will be available for use (first come, first served basis) or bring your own. Registration is appreciated and will open Monday, January 20th.



## ADULT PROGRAMS

### Adult Learning Series

All programs in this series have a sliding scale fee of \$3-\$10 per person. This will be collected at check-in; cash is preferred. Sponsored by The Winston Group and Next Era.

### December: Winter Owls

Tuesday, December 9th | 7:00-8:00 pm  
Learn about the owls present in the winter through an indoor program. Then enjoy a short outdoor walk to listen for owls in the preserve. Please note, no live owls will be in the presentation. Space is limited, registration required by Friday, December 5th.



### Bird Friendly Window Technologies

Wednesday, January 7th | 1:00-2:00 pm  
Join us for a presentation about the importance of bird friendly window technology. Learning about some of the different types that can be used on home windows to keep our feathered friends safe. Staff will conduct a lesson to show how to make your very own zen wind curtain. Materials will be provided for each participant to create one standard sized window curtain to take home.



Registration required by Monday, January 5th.

## Thru-Hiking Three of America's National Scenic Trails

Wednesday, February 17th | 6:00-7:00 pm  
Thru-hiking is the ultimate long-distance backpacking adventure—trekking an entire trail from end to end in one continuous journey. This presentation explores the gear, preparation, and trail life along three of America's most iconic trails: the John Muir Trail, the Appalachian Trail, and the Continental Divide Trail. Join local hiking enthusiast and Dunes' board member, Nick Lohr, for this informative presentation. Registration required by Monday, February 15th.

## Dunes' Digest: A Lunch and Learn Series

Noon-1:00 pm | All programs in this series have a sliding scale fee of \$3-\$10 per person.  
This will be collected at check-in, cash is preferred. Join other nature enthusiasts for an hour of nature knowledge. This series will run November-April and offer a different topic and presenter each month. Bring your own lunch and we will provide coffee, tea, water and a sweet treat. Registration is required by the Monday before each program.

## Tuesday, December 16th: Hiking the Ice Age Trail—a presentation by LuAnn Lonergan

LuAnn Lonergan is a registered nurse and former nurse educator who lives in Kiel, WI. She recently completed her second segment hiking the Ice Age National Scenic Trail and self-published a fascinating book about her adventure, "Oh, Beautiful Blaze: Ice Age Trail Musings." LuAnn will share original artwork and nature inspired haikus, along with some tips and funny stories. Her autographed book will be available for purchase for \$15.

## Wednesday, January 21st: The Motus Wildlife Tracking System in Wisconsin

In the talk, we will go over motus station equipment, motus animals fitted with small transmitters. Woodland Dunes operates two Motus stations which record birds passing through the preserve. Join Jacob Woulf, Motus Coordinator for the Lake Michigan Bird Observatory, to learn about motus station equipment, transmitters, and Wisconsin's role in the tracking system. He'll also explain how to navigate the website to look at individualized tracks of birds, including some recorded at Woodland Dunes. Registration required by Monday, January 19th.

## Wednesday, February 25th: Spring Journeys

The migrations of spring are some of the most anticipated natural wonders of the year. After a long winter, enjoying the migrations of birds, fish and other creatures brings a welcome joy and wonder. Join naturalist, author, and radio host, Rob Zimmer, for a look at many of the birds and other species we can enjoy on their journeys during the spring season.

## Guided Walks

Members: Free | Non-members: Sliding scale \$3-\$10/person  
Join a staff member on a guided hike along one of our trails. Some hikes will have a specific topic while others will be about whatever nature presents to us that day. Registration is required the Monday before the hike takes place, as space is limited and meeting locations vary. Hikes will be under a mile long unless specified.

### Winter Walk

Friday, December 5th | 10:00 am  
Enjoy the winter scenery on a guided walk down one of our trails. Trail TBD.

### Animal Hibernation

Wednesday, December 17th | 1:00 pm  
Learn about the different types of hibernation that help animals survive the chilliest of weather while walking along one of our trails. Trail TBD.

### First Day Hike

Thursday, January 1st | 10:00 am  
Welcome the New Year with a short hike with one of our staff. Trail TBD.

### Weasel Walk

Thursday, January 22nd | 3:00 pm  
Walk along one of the trails with staff as we talk about which weasels call Woodland Dunes home, and hear about our latest wildlife research project... Weasel Boxes! Trail TBD.



### Winter Tree ID

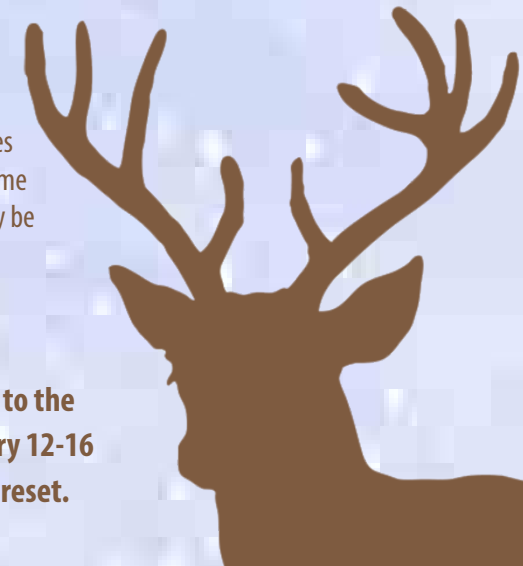
Friday, February 13th | 10:00 am  
Take a walk down one of the trails and learn some tips for identifying trees during the winter months. Trail TBD.

### Nature Jokes

Friday, February 20th  
10:00 am  
Leave your winter blues behind as we share some nature jokes! They may be a bit acorny. Trail TBD.

## NOTICE:

We will be CLOSED to the public from January 12-16 for our New Year's reset.



To register for any of our programs, please contact Jess at [jessicaj@woodlanddunes.org](mailto:jessicaj@woodlanddunes.org) or call at 920-793-4007.

# Thank You!

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.

## Memoriams/Honoriams

*In Memory of Roger Brey*  
Curtis & Kaye Johnson  
*In Memory of Robert & Lois Bush*  
Patrick & Kathryn Taddy  
*In Memory of Judy Knickelbine*  
Helen Bleser  
Gary & Chris Blimel  
Lyn Brouchoud  
Tom & Betsy Kocourek  
Brian & Jenifer Thompson  
*In Memory of James Miller*  
James J Miller Legacy

*In Memory of Patricia Tedeschi*  
Mary Lattaie

*In Honor of Robert Gahl*  
Tom & Betsy Kocourek

*In Honor of Stanley & Elizabeth  
Palmer's 50th Anniversary*  
Greg & Judy Goodchild

**Property Purchase Donations**  
William & Nancy Censky

**Endowment Donations**  
Dolly McNulty

**General Donations**  
Glenn Grothman  
Lakeshore Natural  
Resource Partnership  
LuAnn Lonergan

**Grants**  
American Transmission Corporation  
NexEra Energy Point Beach

**Inkind Donations**  
Kraynek Acres Nursery  
Mark McLaughlin  
Steve Thomas- mowing around  
our Neshotah Swales Preserve

**heiknbrew Sponsors**  
Bank First  
Fricke Printing  
Kerry | Red Arrow

## Summer Appeal

Fran Beckman  
Joe & Kathy Bernhart  
Paul Biegun  
Gary & Chris Blimel  
Susan Boettger  
Ed & Barbara Brey  
- In Memory of Ellen Krumrai  
John & Sharon Brey  
Jeffery Brouchoud  
Matthew & Wendy Campbell  
Mary Jeanne Censky  
Thomas Clark & Judith Rollin  
Maureen Crowley  
Shirley Crowley  
William & Mary Dean  
Donald & Brenda DeBruyn  
Cathy DeLain  
Wayne Denfeld  
Dianne Finnegan  
Mary Jo Haban  
Gary & Cheryl Hanson  
John & Charlene Haug  
John & Becky Hoffmann  
Donald & Debra Knudsen  
Barbara Koch  
Karl & Jeanne Koch  
Jeff & Tina Kvitek  
Bobbie Mahn  
R&all & Jona Miller  
Diann Moore  
Lee & Suellen Mueller  
Alan & Cheryl Petrashek  
Jim & Barbara Sauve  
Rita Schilder  
Susan Shea & Ken Weymouth  
James & Amy Steffen  
Joel & Patti Trick  
Mary Van Os  
Robert & Peggy Walkner  
Gerry Whaley

**Trail & Other Donations**  
Doris Magyar - in memory  
of Denis & Joan Justman  
Merrie Star & Greg Scheuer  
-support of the Butterfly Garden

## INTERESTED in BECOMING A VOLUNTEER?

Please fill out our form on our website:  
[www.woodlanddunes.org/support/volunteer/](http://www.woodlanddunes.org/support/volunteer/)  
or call the nature center and we will work with you to complete the form.

We have many opportunities for you to use your existing skills or learn new ones. Some areas that can use volunteers are invasive plant control, education programs and greeting visitors at the front desk. You will receive training for all of these jobs. Your time will be greatly appreciated. We depend on volunteers to continue our efforts in education and preservation.



## Phenology Calendar

Would you like to know when nature-related events happen here at Woodland Dunes? When will the flowers bloom, when will certain birds return, and more. Would you also like a place to write down your events? Look no further!

Woodland Dunes staff and visitors have been collecting phenology (when things happen) data for decades. Using that data, we have compiled a set of trends for people to know when they are likely to see certain things happen in the preserve. The calendar is also full of images from local photographers, making each month a work of art to admire! Calendars sell for \$25 in our gift shop - they are perfect gifts for yourself or a friend!



## Gift Shop Remodel

We have recently updated our gift shop! Not only do we have a new layout, we have brought in even more items for you to enjoy, or to give as a gift to someone you love. All proceeds go towards supporting Woodland Dunes.

### What can you find in our shop?

- Apparel: hoodies, zip-sweatshirts, long-sleeve shirts, t-shirts, tanktops, baseball caps, and winter hats.  
NEW: kids apparel: t-shirts and baseball caps
- Mittens: Locally made out of 100% recycled materials, these cozy mittens don't last long on our shelves.

- Kids Toys: Puppets & Nature Kits  
NEW: Miniblocks: (similar to Legos) Older kids and adults alike can enjoy building a variety of birds, mammals, insects, even an axolotl.
- Honey, Mugs, Books, Hiking Sticks, a variety of hand-made items, and more.

There is something for everyone here to enjoy. Come and visit.

## THE ENCHANTED FOREST Wrap up 2025

It was a fun evening at the Enchanted Forest! Families learned about misunderstood creatures such as Sucker, Goldenrod, and Slug, visited Merlin in the Sky Shed, and enjoyed looking for the carved nature pumpkins in the garden. This year we added a make-and-take craft station where children could make a skunk bracelet. Thank you to the Lakeshore Unitarian Universalist Fellowship for sponsoring this educational event, thank you to the Two Rivers Octagon Club for carving pumpkins, and thank you to the Two Rivers Art Club for running the craft station.



© 2025 Lottermoser / imagist



2025 WisCorps crews



2024 WisCorps crew

## CATTAIL TRAIL BOARDWALK UPDATE

We are nearing completion of the replacement project for our 40-year-old Catrail Trail boardwalk. The process began in September last year, when a WisCorps crew removed 500 feet of aging boards and installed an equivalent length, which will be accessible to visitors in 2025. During October and through mid-November 2025, two WisCorps crews continued with the effort, extending the boardwalk nearly to the kayak launch and providing access to the West Twin River.

This year's phase required crews to work over greater distances for both removal and installation, as well as to contend with significantly softer and muddier conditions. Throughout the entire project, we used swamp pans to support the boardwalk instead of posts driven into the ground. The swamp pans, combined with adjustable braces, allow for more efficient future maintenance.

We invite you to visit and experience the enhanced boardwalk. The accompanying images illustrate both the former trail and the improvements made, as well as highlight the contributions of the WisCorps crews. We extend our sincere appreciation to the crews and volunteers who have worked diligently to make the boardwalk wider and safer for all. The Ruth St. John and John Durham West Foundation, Inc., a Wisconsin DNR Trails grant and a donation from Dr. Phyllis Schippers generously funded our project.



City of Two Rivers assist with unload



Swamp pans and frames ready for install.



Thank you for 40 years of service.

## NEW MEMBERSHIP LEVELS FOR 2026

### Become a Dunes Defender Member!

We are pleased to announce that our membership levels will be updated beginning in 2026, with these changes taking effect on October 1, 2025. With your renewed or continued participation, you will become a DUNES DEFENDER MEMBER. This status reflects your commitment to nature education at all ages, your support of our stewardship efforts to sustain the preserve's ecological health, and your appreciation for experiencing nature through the arts, literature, music, or science. We appreciate your investment in the Woodland Dunes community!

#### DUNES DEFENDER MEMBER BENEFITS

- All membership levels now include household benefits.
- Receive the printed quarterly "Dunesletter" by mail.
- Stay informed with monthly electronic email updates and timely announcements regarding programs.
- Receive a 10% discount on all purchases at the Dunes Nature Gift Shop.
- Enjoy member discounts on admissions to Woodland Dunes programs and events—including our popular summer camps and twice-a-month guided hikes.
- At the Tanager through Bald Eagle levels, you may select one gift shop item: a ball cap, T-shirt, or mug.
- Membership supports our private non-profit organization focused on nature education and experiences, as well as habitat conservation efforts.

## 2026 MEMBERSHIP

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

#### For Monthly Donor Installments ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER

- Transfer \$ \_\_\_\_\_ from my account each month  
Please make my withdrawal on the  1st or  15th of the month.
- I wish to start/change Electronic Funds Transfers. **I have enclosed a voided check (required).** I understand the amount indicated will be withdrawn automatically from my account each month until I notify Woodland Dunes Nature Center to stop.

OR

#### MONTHLY PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD

- Amount \_\_\_\_\_
- Please charge my credit card the above amount monthly.

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV#: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

LEVELS	ANNUAL AMOUNT	MONTHLY AMOUNT
■ Bobolink	\$50.00	\$4.17
■ Cardinal	\$120.00	\$10.00
■ Whippoorwill	\$240.00	\$20.00
■ Tanager	\$480.00	\$40.00
■ Golden Plover	\$1200.00	\$100.00
■ Sandhill Crane	\$2400.00	\$200.00
■ Saw-whet Owl	\$4800.00	\$400.00
■ Bald Eagle	\$6000.00	\$500.00

Please check or circle the membership level you wish to support.

If a membership is paid after October 1, it covers the end of the year plus the next year.  
Please send this form and your tax-deductible membership to Woodland Dunes, PO Box 486, Two Rivers, WI 54241-0486.



PO Box 486 | Two Rivers, WI 54241-0486

*Conservation*  
*Environmental Education*  
*Outdoor Recreation*

# SAVE THE DATE

## Candlelight Night

*Saturday, February 7th, 2026*

*Registration opens January 20th*

