



Woodland Dunes
Nature Center & Preserve

Woodland Dunes Nature Center *Dunesletter*

Winter 2013-2014 & Volume 154

From the Director

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Anyone ready for spring? I know the robin that's been hanging around our neighborhood is. He's been fortunate that the apple crop was so good last year, and is surviving on old, frozen fruit from last fall. One of these days the ground will thaw and there will be worms for the taking.

This year we're all about payback. Not in a vengeful way, but instead giving back to the land and the life on it. For just about 40 years we've been working to bring properties into the protective umbrella of our preserve. At the same time we've tried to foster greater appreciation for it, and we've done some management of plantlife. Within and around the preserve, things have changed over the years, and now we've found the means to be more proactive.

We realize that the land isn't as good as it used to be for the thousands or millions of songbirds that migrate along the Lake. Some has been developed, and other greenspaces have been taken over by plants that ultimately harm birds and other wildlife. Migrating birds have a hard life to begin with, and the degradation of the places they stop to rest makes it worse for them. We've approached some friends and are developing a project we call Restore the Shore. We're working with both Cities of Two Rivers and Manitowoc, West Foundation, US Fish and Wildlife, the Natural Resources Foundation and others, and are partnering with the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership and Lakeshore Invasive Species Management Area to make things happen. We will be doing habitat restoration on sites within our preserve off Woodland Drive, Columbus St., and 10th St. as well as neighboring Zander Park and some areas along Mariner's Trail. We'll be removing nasty plants and planting beneficial species, and then have to tend to them until they are established. If anyone would like to help, we would welcome that. The interest in the project in our community so far has been very encouraging.

We've also been contacted about restoring a wetland on our property that was formerly agricultural land, as mitigation for a wetland on a contaminated site that will be displaced as part of the clean up. This is another opportunity to restore some of our habitat, and enhance what we offer to migrating birds.

The Bugler preserve north of Two Rivers is now under our ownership, and the family of one of our staff will live there and take care of the property. At present we don't plan to open public trails on the property, but rather will offer guided walks and education events there. The ecosystems of the Bugler preserve are different than those of the main preserve, and it will be interesting to inventory and manage that property.

Thanks to grants from Cellcom and the FORWARD Endowment, we will be installing a new nest camera on our osprey platform by the time they return in April. We will also be adding a link to our newly remodeled website to allow web visitors to view the camera images. Now lets hope the birds return to the same nest!

There's much more coming up this year, and we look forward to seeing you on the trails or at an event. Spring is a joyful season, and we hope it brings you happiness and many new discoveries.

Jim Knickelbine



Coming Events



Register for programs by calling (920) 793-4007, email jessicaj@woodlanddunes.org or stop in and visit!

Save the Date
BioBlitz
Saturday, June 7th
More details to come

Friday Morning Bird Walks
Fridays
8:15am



Join director Jim Knickelbine or a Woodland Dunes naturalist on a weekly route and help document the bird species on the preserve. Meet at the Nature Center and bring binoculars.

**Wonder of It All:
Building Trail,
Building Community**
Thursday, March 27th
6:00-7:30pm

Donations appreciated.
The Ice Age Trail is a natural and community resource across Wisconsin. Learn how the Ice Age Trail Alliance plans to strengthen this resource in Manitowoc County through volunteer efforts. Find out how you can act locally while giving back.

*Sponsored by
Dominion Foundation.*
**Registration required by
March 24th.**

Kids Bird Club

First Tuesday of every month
9:00am
March 4th, April 1st, May 6th,
June 3rd, July 1st and August 5th

Anyone age 0-100, especially homeschoolers, are invited to the Kids' Bird Club. Start with a short, guided bird walk and then enjoy a guided bird activity. Children must be accompanied by an adult. The suggested activity donation is \$2 per child. We are also looking for adult volunteers capable of identifying basic birds to lead the youngsters and their parents on the paths at Woodland Dunes. Please contact Margaret Pauwels, 732-1562, obyrrml@yahoo.com for more information.

Living with the Land, Our Birchwood Home

Thursday, March 20th
2:00pm

Donations appreciated.

Connie Ramthun and her husband, Bill Volkert, have worked to restore their land to a series of natural communities. They have removed invasive shrubs from their woodlot and turned a former cornfield into a native prairie and prairie nursery. Connie collects seeds to grow in a greenhouse to establish new gardens and enhance existing ones and has obtained special permits to grow several state threatened species. Over the years they have cataloged nearly 600 species of plants and animals on less than 10 acres. This program focuses on their experiences in natural landscaping and land management and provides a range of examples for using native plants for both small gardens and managing larger areas of land.

Registration required by March 14th.

Owl Prowl & Spring Night Hike

Friday, April 4th
7:30-9:00pm

Admission:

Members: \$4, Family \$10
Non-members: \$5, Family \$15

Join us as we explore an early spring evening and discover "whoos!" active on the preserve. After an indoor introduction and short program, we will walk the trails to look and listen for owls and other spring nightlife. Dress for the weather and wear waterproof boots.

Registration required by March 31st.

Coming Events



Remembering a Lost Bird: Lessons From The Past For a Sustainable Future

Saturday, May 10th
11:15am - 12:15pm

Join Stanley A. Temple, Senior Fellow with the Aldo Leopold Foundation and Beers-Bascom Professor Emeritus in Conservation at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, for this very special presentation. In 1914 the last surviving Passenger Pigeon died in a Cincinnati zoo. The loss of one of the world's most abundant birds stands as the iconic extinction event in our country's history.



Bird Breakfast and Migration Celebration

Saturday, May 10th
8:00 - 11:00am

Admission:
Adults \$6; Children \$5;
Children under 4 are free (includes breakfast)

You are invited to a fun celebration of spring and the return of many of our migratory songbirds! Enjoy a ham and pancake breakfast, meet wild birds during bird banding demonstrations (weather permitting), enjoy guided bird and nature hikes and participate in the big sit. Bring your lawn chair, binoculars and bird book and enjoy sitting in a birding hotspot with an experienced birder. Learn how to make your yard more bird-friendly and receive a free tree/shrub. Kids games and activities will be on-going throughout the morning. Fun for the entire family! *Sponsored by Dominion Foundation and Browns of Two Rivers.*

Bat Monitor Training

Wednesday, May 21st
8:30 - 9:30pm (sunset 8:16)

Woodland Dunes is a participant in the Wisconsin Bat Monitoring Program and we are looking for volunteers who are interested in monitoring bats in the area. Volunteers hold an AnaBat detector attached to a PDA and GPS and walk for a minimum of 1 hour after sunset. The detector picks up echolocation calls emitted by bats and translates it to a frequency the human ear can hear. The recorded data is submitted to the Wisconsin Bat Monitoring Program database. Monitors must attend a training session to learn how to use the monitor.

Registration required by May 19th as this is a weather dependent program.

Dash at the Dunes 5K Trail Run/Walk

Saturday, April 26th

Registration 8:00-9:30am at Aurora Medial Center on Memorial Drive
Race 10:00am

Enjoy a 5k run/walk through our trails! All proceeds will go towards our education programs and events throughout the year!

Register by April 11th/\$20 per adult
Register April 12th-April 24th/\$25 per adult
Register on the day of the event/\$30 per adult
Children ages 12 and under \$10

For more information, visit

www.woodlanddunes.org/dash-at-the-dunes-5k-trail-run/
or contact Corriisa Frank at corrissaf@woodlanddunes.org



Thank you



Education Support

Thank you to all Teacher Naturalist's who helped with winter programs! We could not offer the community these amazing opportunities without you!

Fund Drive Donors

Bruce & Lesley Huffer
Tom & Lindy Backus
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Kim & Fay Henning
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Eugene Sandvig

Donations

In Honor of Ellen Lewellen
Amory Fischer
In Honor of Lucy Zeldenrust
Robert A. Gahl
In Honor of Lou Ann Gray
Dan & Patty Gray

Event Sponsors

Candlelight Night:
Cellcom

Kwik Trip in Two Rivers

Memorials

In Memory of Thomas Bean
Sue Mullins Witkin
In Memory of Dr. Robert Bush
Julie & Jeffrey Rathmanner
In Memory of Robert Peppard
Grace Peppard
In Memory of Eunice Mella
Mona Moen
In Memory of Armond Kueter
Nancy Dalton

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Matching Funds

Ameriprise Financial
Wisconsin Public Service Foundation
Bristol-Meyers Squibb Foundation

Land Management Program

Donations

K. Patricia Morse

Grants

Dominion
Wonder of It All Education Series and
Bird Breakfast

Forward Endowment

Osprey Camera and Monitor

New Members

Tami Feuerstein
Laura Klemm
Ken & Liela Kuchar
Peg Mueller
Barb & Tom Oswald
William Pauwels Family
Jim Rabas
Kathy Smith
Debbie & Mike Timm

New Guarantors

Mary Madison
Betsy & Justin Winga

Members inadvertently omitted from Winter Dunesletter

Please accept our apologies.

Deer hunters:
Rick Schultz, Ken Zeman
Members:
Dave & Mary Ozarowicz
Dick Luchsinger Family

News

Woodland Dunes won 3rd place in the Lights in Lincoln Park Winter Contest \$250.00 from Lincoln Park Zoological Society of Manitowoc County

Volunteer Spotlight

Dolly McNulty



We met Dolly through her involvement with the Lakeshore Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance. A segment of the Ice Age Trail was added to the Woodland Dunes preserve and Dolly was as a wonderful liaison between the organizations. Dolly now serves on our Board of Directors, on the Human Resources and Property Committee and volunteers for special events and at the front desk. She is always willing to help and go the extra mile!

Thank you Dolly!

Get to Know Dolly:

Years of service:

A few.

Why she decided to volunteer:

After attending a few events, someone from Woodland Dunes staff asked if I'd help out at one.

What she most enjoys about being involved:

Clichéd but true: because I feel like I'm contributing to something worthwhile.

Hobbies:

Hiking, kayaking, cycling, traveling, needlepoint, knitting and sewing.

Fun fact:

If Dolly could be any animal, she'd be an eagle so she could soar!

The Passenger Pigeon: A Tale Of Extinction

Martha died at 1 PM on September first, 1914 in the Cincinnati Zoo. Her reported age was 29; however, her actual age was undetermined. Martha was the last known living Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) and her death heralded the extinction of a species. Martha's preserved body lies in the Smithsonian's collections at the National Museum of Natural History. Martha began her life in Wisconsin having been raised in Whittaker's aviary in Milwaukee before she was given to the Cincinnati Zoo. The last known Passenger Pigeon reported in Wisconsin was shot in Babcock, September 1899, by James Varney while he and companions were hunting Prairie Chickens (*Tympanuchus cupido*). Undocumented reports suggest that Passenger Pigeons were still seen in Wisconsin in the early 1900's.

Biologists, both past and present, consider the Passenger Pigeon to arguably have been the most abundant bird on the planet. Its population has been estimated to be up to five billion birds, with a more conservative estimate reported to be about three billion. John James Audubon estimated a migrating flock of pigeons to be about two billion birds that required three days to pass. Passenger pigeons inhabited the deciduous forests of the eastern United States, forming large and complex social groups. Perhaps it was this social advantage to their life that also sealed their fate, making them easy targets for hunters. Native Americans used them as food, but saw them in the context of a whole and not a resource to be exploited. Europeans, however, armed with guns saw them as an easily exploited limitless resource. And, with the western expansion of the railroad, the pigeons, easily harvested, could be packed into containers and quickly shipped to the eastern markets for distribution to a growing populace. Even as the population of pigeons was crashing in the late 1800's, the birds were still harvested by the millions.

A. W. Schorger, a Wisconsin naturalist and chemist by training, amassed data from all available sources reconstructing the life history of the Passenger Pigeon. His work, published in 1955, was entitled: *The Passenger Pigeon: Its Natural History and Extinction*. Every aspect of the pigeon was examined, including its behavior, feeding methods, migration, roosting habits, nesting and its encounter with both Native Americans and white settlers. At the time of Audubon, Schorger estimated that one of every four birds in the U.S. was a Passenger Pigeon.

As humans, we do not like to be told that our actions have caused harm to another, or at worst, caused a species to become extinct. To help us to deal with this assault to our principles, and offer an admission of our actions, monuments have been erected to the Passenger Pigeon in several states where the bird was once found. Wisconsin honors the passing of the Passenger Pigeon in two ways: by naming the Journal of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology the Passenger Pigeon, and by erecting a monument to the pigeon in Wyalusing State Park. The monument was originally dedicated in 1947, with Aldo Leopold providing the inscription. The monument is a bronze plaque, set in a limestone edifice, with the likeness of a Passenger Pigeon standing on an oak branch engraved with the words: "Dedicated to the last Wisconsin Passenger Pigeon shot at Babcock, Sept. 1899. This species became extinct through the avarice and thoughtlessness of man."

The message of the fate of the Passenger Pigeon should be a sobering reminder that human activity not only affects the lives of humans, but also the lives of all living things.

Chuck Sontag

Acknowledgement: Although I accept responsibility for the prose, Peter Weber, Professor Emeritus/SUNY Oswego generously provided his talent to clarify its meaning. For this I am especially grateful. Thanks for the help you have given in getting this project finished.

If you would like to read the entire article, visit our website at <http://www.woodlanddunes.org/stories/>

Education



Spring Citizen Science Monitoring Opportunities

Citizen science is scientific research conducted with the assistance of nonprofessional scientists. Woodland Dunes coordinates several monitoring projects and is in need of volunteers.

Upcoming opportunities include:

Salamander Monitoring:

Volunteers are needed to help inventory the number and species of salamanders at Woodland Dunes by checking live traps and recording findings. Training will be provided and surveying lasts 1-2 weeks in early spring. For more information, contact Jess at jessicaj@woodlanddunes.org

Water Quality Monitoring (WAV):

Woodland Dunes coordinates water monitoring efforts on the East and West Twin Rivers.

Monitoring involves monthly trips (April-November) to a designated location to take a variety of tests which are recorded. Woodland Dunes will provide training. If you are interested in volunteering as a WAV monitor, please contact Jim at nature@woodlanddunes.org.

Midwest Crane Count:

This is one of the largest citizen-based inventories in the world. Volunteers count cranes from 5:30-7:30 a.m. On Saturday, April 19th. For more information, contact Jim at nature@woodlanddunes.org

Bat Monitoring:

Woodland Dunes is looking for volunteers to monitor bats in the area. Monitors must attend a training session to learn how to use the monitor (see event schedule for first training date). For more information, contact Jess at jessicaj@woodlanddunes.org

Volunteer Teacher Naturalists and Education Helpers Needed

Do you like to work with children? Do you like to share the wonder of the natural world with them?

Consider volunteering as a Teacher-Naturalist (TN) or education helper. TNs and education helpers teach the field trip programs offered to area schools. This spring, Woodland Dunes will offer three field trips: Maple Syrup and Forest Ecology (March), Amphibmeander (May-June) and Water Wonders (May-June). Training sessions are held and new TNs observe seasoned TNs before they teach. We also need education helpers, who assist TNs with activities where an extra set of hands is helpful. For more information on becoming a TN, contact Jess by calling the Nature Center or email at jessicaj@woodlanddunes.org.

Candlelight Night

Candlelight Night was a huge success! We had 115 people walking our trails, enjoying a bonfire and listening to music inside our nature center, while enjoying the gourmet s'mores bar and hot cocoa! Thank you to all who joined us. We look forward to next year.



Live music at Candlelight Night

Land Management



Program Update

Exciting things are happening in our land management program. We have many projects lined up beginning in the spring and many grant applications have been submitted to help financially support these efforts.

The uniting theme of these projects is "Restore the Shore" and they involve invasive species removal and native vegetation planting aimed at improving food sources for birds and restoring the stopover habitat for migratory birds along the lakeshore. These projects involve multiple acres of property throughout the preserve as well as along the river and lake fronts.

We will be having regularly scheduled work days for volunteers to assist with invasive species removal. We have named our invasive species volunteer group the Barberryans, after the invasive Japanese Barberry. We are also involved with a four-county invasive species management area, called the Lakeshore Invasive Species Management Area (LISMA). This partnership supports shared resources and funding, further assisting in our overall mission. If anyone is interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact Jennifer at 920-793-4007 or jenniferp@woodlanddunes.org.

Program Work Days



Whack 'Em Wednesdays (WEW)

Starting at 10:00am
March 12th
March 26th
April 9th
April 23rd
May 14th
May 28th

Come join Woodland Dunes for the Whack 'Em Wednesdays program work days! We will meet at the Nature Center and tackle invasive species in various parts of the preserve. Work will involve using hand tools to cut the invasive species and spray bottles to apply small amounts of herbicide to the remaining stem. All necessary equipment will be provided and refreshments will also be provided afterward at the Nature Center. Work days will last 2 hours and will be weather dependent. Please register a week prior to any work day so we can contact you if we need to cancel due to weather.

Ways of Giving

Woodland Dunes is a non-profit organization and provides educational programs for youth and adults while maintaining 1300 acres of land for the community to enjoy free of charge. Please consider making a donation.

I wish to support Woodland Dunes with the following donation:

\$10 ___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$200 ___ Other ___

Name (please print) _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make checks payable to Woodland Dunes and return this form with your donation:

Woodland Dunes, P.O. Box 486, Two Rivers, WI 54241

Or donate online at <http://www.woodlanddunes.org/support/>



Woodland Dunes Nature Center
 P.O. Box 486
 Two Rivers, WI 54241-0486
 woodlanddunes.org

Woodland Dunes

Headquarters and Nature Shop

Hwy. 310 West of Two Rivers

Hours

Monday-Friday: 9AM-4PM
 Saturday: 9AM-12PM (April-October)

Contact

Phone: (920) 793-4007
 Email: nature@woodlanddunes.org
 Website: www.woodlanddunes.org
 Facebook: Look up Woodland Dunes in
 Two Rivers, WI and like our page!

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- ____ \$35 Family
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- ____ \$100 Contributor

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- ____ \$250 Conservator
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Please send this form and your tax-deductible membership to Woodland Dunes!