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Photography by Nancy Nabak
unless otherwise noted.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we wrap up a particularly busy year I would like to thank everyone who helped us on so many worthwhile projects. From Board members to teacher naturalists to grounds and trail workers and everybody in between - you are amazing and wonderful people and your work makes our preserve and our organization all the better. Not only does wildlife need a safe place in which to survive and thrive, but people do too. Despite real challenges, we stay upbeat, as we're all committed to the necessary tasks in front of us.

“You are amazing and wonderful people and your work makes our preserve and our organization all the better”

Much is happening now. The restoration of Forget-Me-Not Creek is moving forward and by spring it will provide easier access for both spawning fish and invertebrates. At that time, there should also be construction afoot to restore wetlands at the Henry addition to our preserve on Woodland Drive. Thanks to a generous bequest, we may also be managing a third nature preserve near Manitowoc. In cooperation with the Two Rivers and Manitowoc Park departments and other entities, we are also working on several habitat restorations. An additional wetland restoration may be in the works on former farmland within our main preserve, partnering with the Wisconsin DNR and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Cattail Trail renovation continues to improve section by section, thanks to our individual volunteers plus groups such as: Dominion Energy, Thrivent, and Grace UCC Church. Eagle Scout candidates from the same family- Andrew, Jacob, and John Welch, have or will be replacing the separate decks on the boardwalk. The work that was begun nearly 40 years ago by Bernie

Brouchoud, John Woodcock, and Jim Steffen is now being sustained by new generations. This boardwalk trail continues to be one of the most important parts of our facilities - attracting people to experience the magic of our wetlands.

Even though the year isn't finished, we are excited to be planning for new education programs for next year. We are pleased that Wendy Lutzke has joined us to work with Jessica as an

Environmental Educator and also as coordinator of the Dorothy Star Butterfly and Bee Garden. You may have already noticed a big improvement in the garden thanks to Wendy, as well as Joanna, Judy, Mary and all the great volunteers. Next year the garden will see more use as part of our summer education programs.

As always, with an outstanding nature preserve comes many opportunities for habitat and education projects- more than we can carry out given the size of our staff. However, with your continued financial gifts and memberships, we are able to coordinate the numerous activities (planning, scheduling, planting, building, and teaching) that it takes to make our center thrive.

Woodland Dunes is ever changing, and we're significantly growing and improving. Even if you've visited often, please take some time to see what's new. Between the wildlife and the people of Woodland Dunes, changes are happening, and we hope you're as excited as we are to be a part of that.

~ Jim Knickelbine, Executive Director



A Royally Good Time!

We proved princesses *do* wear hiking boots at the “Be a Nature Princess” program in early November. This girl-powered program was a partnership between Woodland Dunes and the Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA) and supported through a grant from REI. The goal was to encourage women and girls to get outside and explore – and we did just that! Wearing nature crowns, fifty-one princesses hiked a one-mile section of the Ice Age Trail and discovered blue-spotted salamanders, a toad, mushrooms and more! We ran through the meadow, climbed on downed trees and squished and jumped in muddy puddles. After, we sipped on princess cider, snacked on fruit wands and veggies and made oriole feeders to help the birds in our natural kingdom at home. Thank you to the Ice Age Trail Alliance, REI, SeedsNBeans, Wilfert Farms and Dolly McNulty for your generous support!

SAVE THE DATE!



5K Trail Run/Walk Fundraiser
Saturday, April 21st
10:00am

Starts at the Aurora Medical Center and ends at the Woodland Dunes Nature Center. This is a friendly race event and not designed for highly competitive speed racing due to the roots and natural terrain of the trail. Come enjoy the uniqueness we offer! Sponsorships are now available, please contact Nancy for more information at nancyn@woodlanddunes.org.

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



Volunteer Teacher Naturalists Needed!

Do you have what it takes to teach field trip classes, Scout groups, home schoolers, etc. . . about nature on the preserve?

If this seems like an exciting idea to you, please contact us. We will be offering *full training* in the end of February for our Maple Syrup and other spring programs.

This is a perfect opportunity for retired teachers, college grads and outdoor enthusiasts to use their skills during the day. No experience necessary.

Please visit our education page to learn more about the programs we offer: www.woodlanddunes.org/education/



Thank you, Cellcom!

Woodland Dunes received a \$2,000 grant from Cellcom for its Cottonwood Trail Program. Funds that support the Cellcom Green Gift program are generated from recycled cell phones. The company’s recycling program has generated \$306,975 for local charities over the past 13 years.

Shown above: Cellcom representative, Jaimie Salta, awards a \$2,000 check to Jessica Johnsrud and Jim Knickelbine for the Cottonwood Trail education program.

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

Julie Thielbar

How long have you volunteered at Woodland Dunes and why did you decide to get involved?

I started hunting at Woodland Dunes about 10 years ago and since then have become more involved with the hunting program. I’ve stayed involved because I also wanted to use my leadership skills with the hunter group that donates time and effort on the preserve.

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

I enjoy working with other volunteers and staff. I also enjoy seeing the progress made on the nature preserve by removing invasive species, planting trees and wildflowers. It’s also a great opportunity to learn more about the plant species native to our land. The best feeling is listening to kids that have visited Woodland Dunes and hearing about the great experiences they had - knowing that you had a small part in that.

What are some of your favorite pastimes or hobbies?

I enjoy hunting, fishing, kayaking, and almost anything involving the outdoors.

Words of wisdom for other volunteers?

The future of Woodland Dunes depends on what we do in the present.



Welcome, Wendy!

“Bloom where you are planted” has always been a favorite quote for Wendy, a native of inland Lower Michigan who embraced the beautiful state of Wisconsin after being transplanted in Manitowoc as an elementary teacher at Bethany Lutheran School. She likes to tell people that the very first field trip she set up for her first graders back in 1988 was to Woodland Dunes for the Cottonwood Trail program!

After teaching at Bethany for 15 years, she spent 13 years as the director of education at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum. She enjoyed creating many community partnerships and programs during her time there. Two of her favorites include establishing the Watershed Ambassadors Summer Camp for teens and starting the Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed with her co-leader, Kim Kettner.

Wendy has a passion for the outdoors. When she’s not teaching on the trails or digging in the butterfly garden at Woodland Dunes, you may find her hiking, biking, fly fishing, sailing, iceboating, snowshoeing, hunting, or paddling! She also enjoys writing and is pleased that some of her essays have been included in the Wisconsin Life series on Wisconsin Public Radio.

Wendy and her husband Steve have been married for 26 years. During that time, they raised Steve’s two daughters who now have families of their own, including a total of seven grandchildren and three granddogs. They have also traveled through all except six of the United States, and Wendy has also taken several trips overseas.

Working at Woodland Dunes as an Environmental Educator and Butterfly Garden Coordinator is a joy for Wendy, and she hopes to see many of you in the garden or on the trails!



Photo Submitted



- We have a short list of books that we would like to add to the Little Wings room. If you would like to donate a book or two, please contact Jess at jessicaj@woodlanddunes.org and she will give you some title suggestions.
- The Land management team could use additional, 1-2 gallon handheld herbicide sprayers for controlling invasive species.

Thank you!



Land Management

In partnership with our contractors, we've completed our fourth year of Phragmites treatment on the lower East Twin River and lower West Twin River, as of this fall. We've also dispersed seeds, including wetland wildflowers and other native species along 5 miles of shoreline on the West Twin to enhance the habitat newly created through the removal of the Phragmites. In a few years, we'll have some very scenic stretches of the river to enjoy.

We've also increased our pollinator forage areas within the preserve by another 40 acres. The open field along the Ice Age Trail will be also be abloom with a variety of colors and wildflowers in a few years as part of this project. Local high school students (75 in total) and a dozen other adult volunteers were at the helm of this undertaking, aiding us in planting 1,275 native wildflowers around the nature center and along Mariner's Trail.

Currently, we are continuing to remove woody invasive species from the preserve and ordering trees and supplies for next year's big project. We'll be planting over 2,000 native trees and shrubs in the heart of our preserve to increase species diversity and improve water filtration in our wooded wetlands. We've got lots of physical work ahead, but we're proactively moving forward when it comes to protecting our canopy and all that depend on it. We're able to do this through a GLRI grant from the US Forest Service. We're also working on another wetland restoration endeavor, as well as several community projects offsite.

We're always in need of volunteers to help with invasive species removal (consider joining our die-hard Barberry team) and native species planting. To become a part of our invaluable team, call 920-793-4007 or email jenniferp@woodlanddunes.org.

Jennifer Klein, Land Management Coordinator



Contributing to our endowment fund is an act of great vision.

You'll be leaving a lasting legacy to ensure Woodland Dunes serves the community for future generations by supporting us now. Please contact Executive Director, Jim Knickelbine, at 920-793-4007 or email: nature@woodlanddunes.org to make a gift or for more information.

Reserve Your Seats for Tropical Blast 2018

Join us for a night in the Caribbean with live steel drums, tropical food and drinks, a wine raffle, and a Pirate's Treasure hunt with valuable booty to be found!

Tickets: \$75/per person
\$600/table of 8

Our goal is to raise \$25,000 to support our important year round nature-based education programs for children.

Photo by Lynn Rennert

The Menu

Appetizers: *Kalua Pork Nachos & Coconut Shrimp*

Salad: *Grilled watermelon with baby arugula, goat cheese caramelized walnut & balsamic reduction*

Entree: *Mango & Crab stuffed Chicken Breast, Pineapple Braised Pork Tenderloins, or Stuffed Zucchini*

Dessert: *Mini-sampler of sweet treats*

For more information or to register online, please go to: www.woodlanddunes.org/tropical-blast/

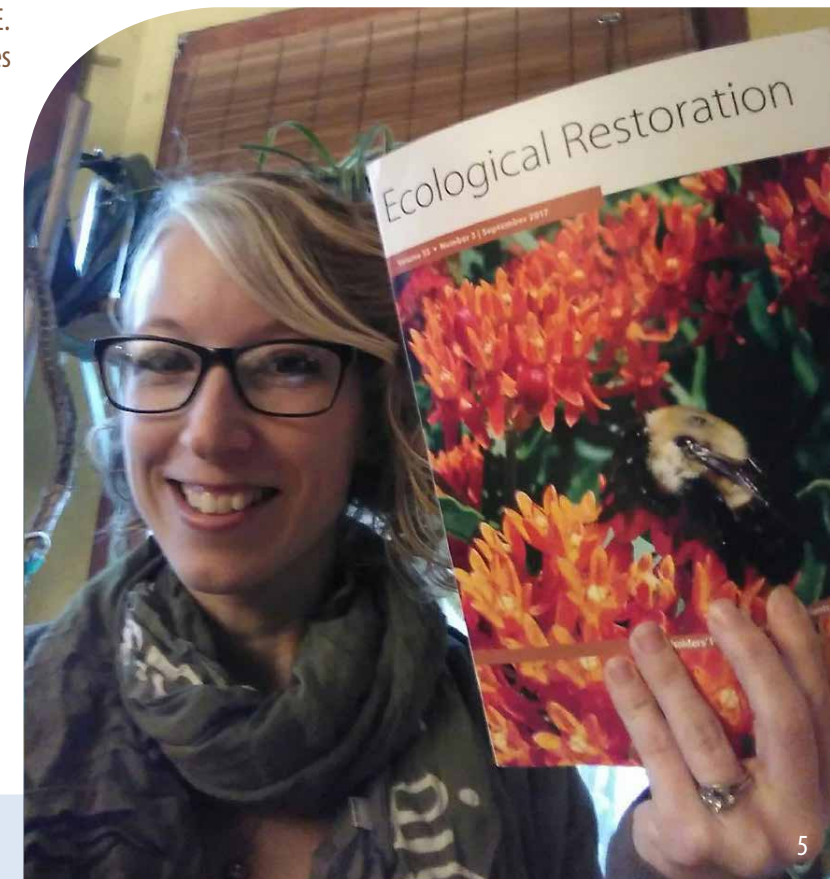
Former Intern Publishes Paper on Invasive Plant Species

Rose Neumeyer Phillips, former Woodland Dunes' intern, and Michaelen E. Gerken Golay conducted research on invasive plants on the Woodland Dunes preserve in the spring and summer of 2014. Their paper, "Effect of Invasive Shrubs on the Herbaceous Community in a Mixed Forest," was recently published in the September issue of "Ecological Restoration." The following is the finding of their work:

"Removal of invasive shrubs is an important initial step to restoring an invaded forest community. However, this research supports the idea that long-term management is imperative for successful herbaceous layer restoration (Murphy et al. 2007). Restoration without follow-up control and restoration plantings can create favorable conditions for re-establishment of invasive or generalist species (Hartman & McCarthy 2004). Native communities are altered as a result of invasion, and simply removing invasive species may not be enough to return the herbaceous community to pre-invasion community composition and floristic quality."

Woodland Dunes' habitat management practices reflect the findings of this paper.

For a complete copy of the paper, please contact Nancy at nancyn@woodlanddunes.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Glaciers, Geysers and Waterfalls: An Active Exploration of Iceland

Wednesday, December 6th | 1:00-2:00pm

Iceland is a magical place with ample personal space, glorious vistas, incredible geothermal features, friendly locals, and an interesting history. Located only 6 hours from Minneapolis by air, this peaceful land of mountains, glaciers, rivers, puffins, and whales has a little bit of everything. Easy to get to and easy to navigate, this northern paradise is tourist-friendly; Icelanders even speak English. Share in long-time Dunes supporters Ellen and Don Lewellen's recent adventure and drive the perimeter of this island country. You may find yourself inspired to book your own adventure soon! Registration required by Monday, December 4th. *Sponsored by Next Era Point Beach Nuclear Plant.*

"We Are All Apprentices" Writing and Art Workshop

Saturday, December 9th | 9:00am-Noon

A free, fun workshop led by the staff of Silver Lake College's literary journal, *The Novice*. This journal pays special attention to the creation of dialogue between literature and the arts, because as Ernest Hemingway said, "We are all apprentices in a craft where no one ever becomes a master." Come for a laid-back morning of creative inspiration! Take part in various writing activities, learn about different poetic forms, think deeply about the world, and let your ideas flow! For more information, please contact *The Novice* staff members at thenovice.sl@gmail.com.

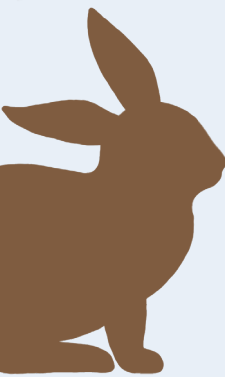


Raising a Wild Child Preschool Program

Thursdays December 14th, January 11th & February 8th 9:00-10:30am

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! Registration required by the Monday before each program. An adult must accompany children. Dress for the weather.



Christmas Bird Count for Kids

Saturday, December 16th | 9:00-11:30am | \$2/child

Learn birding basics at binocular boot camp, and then enjoy a friendly morning counting birds for the National Audubon Society's 118th Christmas Bird Count. Small groups led by experienced birders will walk a trail, document bird species and tabulate results. The bird count is for children ages 8 and up. Dress for the weather.



Kids ages 4-7 can join us for the *Budding Birders* program while their older siblings are on the trail. Learn about birds and help decorate a tree for them! An adult must accompany these children. Registration for both programs required by December 13th.



Kids and Caregivers Yoga, Hike and Craft

Thursday, December 28th | 9:30-11:30am
\$15/family - up to 4, \$5 per extra child

Need a fun, nature inspired, and family friendly event during the holiday break? Join certified yoga instructor Jennifer Jelenic for a fun trail hike, mixed with easy yoga poses for kids and caregivers of all ages! Meet at the Nature Center at 9:30am where we will warm up and set out on an exploratory trail yoga-hike. Plan for 45-60 minutes on the trails, followed by hot cocoa, snack and craft project back at the center. Dress for the weather. If weather is poor, child-inspired yoga class will be held inside the nature center with craft/snack to follow. Minimum of 4 families pre-registered to run class. All ages welcome, parent discretion. Pre-registration required by Friday, December 22nd.

Snoga at the Dunes

Saturdays January 13th, February 17th & March 17th | 12:30-2:30pm
\$15/person or \$25/couple if registered by the Thursday of week of program
\$20/person or \$30/couple walk-in, if space available

Join us for the 4th annual Snoga at the Dunes! Certified yoga instructor Jennifer Jelenic will host 3 afternoons of winter fun. We'll start our adventure with 20 minutes of warm-up yoga stretches to prepare for the snowshoe hike through the preserve. Along the meditative hike, various Snoga poses (standing yoga poses) will be introduced to stay warm from the inside. Warm beverages and light snacks after in the Nature Center. Come dressed for the weather and easy movement, layers are usually the best. We will be on the trails for one to one and a half hours depending on conditions. Snowshoes available but are limited to 10 sets for adults, 10 medium sets for 130lbs and under and 10 sets for children. Best for ages 4+ (with parent approval) that can hike on the snow. Pre-registration recommended, ensuring snowshoe availability. If no snow, we will hike on foot. Minimum of 6 people needed to run event, maximum of 30.



Human Health and Environment – Living in the Red Zone and What We Can Do About It

Wednesday, January 17th | 2:00-3:30pm

According to Dr. Roy Ozanne, human health has changed since the industrial culture has come to dominate the natural and agricultural environment over the last 150 years. This environmental change has placed us in what Dr. Ozanne, MD, HMD, terms the Red Zone. Dr. Ozanne will discuss key health impacts of living in the Red Zone and most importantly what we can do to improve our personal, community and global health and environment. Dr. Ozanne spent an early career as an ecologist and his last 40 years as a holistic Medical Doctor in Wisconsin and Washington. Registration required by Monday, January 15th. *Sponsored by Next Era Point Beach Nuclear Plant.*



Candlelight Night

Saturday, February 3rd | 6:30-8:30pm

Members: \$5; \$15 family | Non-Members: \$8; \$20 family

Enjoy an evening stroll along a candlelit trail, live music and warm beverages. Learn about winter constellations (weather permitting) and enjoy an outdoor fire and smores. This is a fun, relaxing evening with friends and family. Adult and kid's snowshoes available for use (if there's snow) or bring your own. Held at the Nature Center.

Phantoms of the Forest

Tuesday, February 6th | 1:00-2:00pm

Join recently retired Curator of Science from the Neville Public Museum, John Jacobs, for an enlightening presentation about Red-shouldered hawks. Learn about their migration, nesting behavior, food, gender roles, predators, development of young, nesting success and more. Jacobs will also discuss research techniques, statistics and recommendations for future management. Registration required by Friday, February 2nd. *Sponsored by Next Era Point Beach Nuclear Plant.*



Testimonials ~ Recent Facebook & Google Reviews ...

“What a great place for families! My almost 3 year old spent hours in the front play area stacking wood pieces, playing in the water, eating mulberries, playing in the sand, and more. A \$5 donation was well worth an awesome morning interacting with nature. Can't wait to get back and take him on the wood trails!”

~ Jennifer Both, ★★★★★ 5 star review, Google

“This place is amazing! They are involved in so many ecological issues and programs that it makes you wonder how they can do so many things so well.”

~ Michael Dittmer, ★★★★★ 5 stars on Facebook

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



THANK YOU

Memorials/Honorarials

In memory of Wesley & Margaret Shum
Judy Knickelbine
Charles & Marilyn Sontag

In memory of Donald Lewellen, Sr.
Jim & Martha Rasmus

In memory of Marian Eleanor Bolle
Cheryl Gorsuch
& Suzanne Jacky

In memory of Jeff Knorr
Charles & Marilyn Sontag

In memory of Ronald Feest
Menasha Joint School
District CLC Team
Maureen Puls
Lynn Brothier

To honor the marriage of Ed Brey & Barbara Tringali
Jeanie & Don Miller

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