

CONTENTS

- 2 Tropical Blast
Jim Day
- 3 Rookie of the Year
Land Management
- 4 Volunteer Spotlight
Planned Giving
Motus
- 5 Dash at the Dunes
Park Preserve
Butterfly Garden
- 6 Events
- 7 Enchanted Forest
Snowshoe Rental
Photo Contest
- 8 Thank You

FROM THE DIRECTOR

We've had an exceptionally busy summer and fall this year, and I'd like to thank both our staff and all of our volunteers for their help with projects and events almost too numerous to mention. You will see their work all over the preserve. I wish you could see and hear the interactions between our educators and the children who visit. From my perspective, there are two things that are especially precious about

“**We're a small staff but we have a big vision.**”

Woodland Dunes: the amazing wild creatures that live under our protection, and the children who visit to learn and experience them. There are many other things and people around our place that make it special, including those who work to maintain this valuable habitat, but those two things: critters and kids, stand out for me.

We're a small staff but we have a big vision. Our main building isn't always large enough to allow for the kind of programs or events we'd like to offer. Our parking space is really limited - to the point where we avoid offering programs when the ground is thawing and worry constantly when it's wet.

Thanks to a long-time supporter, we have the opportunity to make Woodland Dunes a better place for our visitors. We have been pledged a very significant matching donation, which would allow us to improve our Center for education programs and special events. You'll also see that it'll nurture the interest and comfort of our visitors. Our Board is looking at options, working with local design professionals, and when our

building concept is finalized we'll be seeking further donations and grants to complete the project. Much of our focus will be on increasing our public space, improving our kitchen facilities, creating a dramatic new entrance, and creating adequate all-season parking. There will also

be opportunities for more interpretive displays, meeting areas, and access to our butterfly garden. We will not disturb the truly wild habitat that makes

Woodland Dunes such a sanctuary for wildlife, and we will be as friendly toward our environment as we can.

This will be a big project, but it will help us enhance our ability to educate the smallest child with a dip net in their hand, to the retired senior who wants to participate in a soap making class. It'll provide a beautiful and attractive place for people to visit, and show that our community still cares about the resources that first drew them here.

We also want to help shine a positive light on Two Rivers and Manitowoc. Between design considerations, fundraising, and construction there will be a lot to do, but the benefits will be real and long-lasting for our community. We live in a wonderful area. We have an outstanding preserve and exceptional education programs. It's time to bring our Nature Center up to the same standards of excellence.

I look forward to sharing more about this exciting project with you as we progress.

~ Jim Knickelbine, Executive Director



Reserve Your Seats for Tropical Blast 2019

Join us for a night in the Caribbean at the newly renovated Sepia Chapel with live steel drums, tropical food and drinks, a wine raffle, valuable mystery treasure, and new tropical fun!

Tickets: \$75 /person, \$600/table of 8, \$750/table of 10

Our goal is to raise \$30,000 to support our important year round nature-based education programs for children.



The Menu

Caribbean style appetizers, arugula and endive salad, entrée of Caribbean style roasted pork shoulder or roasted chicken breast with forbidden black rice, nappa cabbage & pineapple slaw, or vegetarian Caribbean fusion medley, and a delicious mini dessert trio.

We sold out early last year so get your friends together and reserve your spot today!

Vickery Village
VENUE & SHOPS IN SUAMICO



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

Jim Day – A Table Tribute to Woodland Dunes



Jim first discovered Woodland Dunes during our Owl Fest two years ago. Of course, he fell in love with our Preserve and has been back with family and friends many times.

This year, Jim was chosen to be a part of "The Art of Tablesetting" exhibit put on by the Rahr-West Art Museum. Jim agreed to create a display and this is what he had to say in the program booklet:

Flora, Fauna and Feathers: A Tribute to Woodland Dunes

After attending "Owlfest," I decided to design a tablescape as a tribute to Woodland Dunes. Everything on my table is inspired by this beautiful Two Rivers nature preserve. The tablecloth was designed to resemble the marshy waters filled with duckweed and swirling currents through the cattails. The floral placemats



and napkins belonged to my great-grandmother and the Minto china and twig flatware are vintage. The Scottish crystal is etched with ferns, champagne flutes with doves, and the candles are tacked with bees. The porcelain owl and bird collection are part of my passion."

We are honored, Jim! Thank you for your beautiful dedication!

Wishlist

- \$300 to purchase a new iPad for the store so we can process sales and memberships with credit cards
- Dry Erase markers
- Gravel shovels
- Loppers
- Bow saw

Congratulations!

By Judy Goodchild, Two Rivers Optimist

The Rookie of the Year is awarded to a Two Rivers Optimist Club Member that has joined the Optimist Club, during the past year (Optimist year runs from Oct. 1 – Sept. 30). The recipient steps up to responsibility, leadership and volunteers at various activities the Two Rivers Optimist Club offers.

Nancy Nabak, Woodland Dunes communication & development coordinator, was named Rookie of the Year for attending many of the club meetings, volunteering, and stepped up to Chair of the Fire Fighters Breakfast. Her enthusiasm, vision, and energy are outstanding! The Two Rivers Optimist Club is proud to have Nancy as a member and to award her the Rookie of the Year.



Land Management

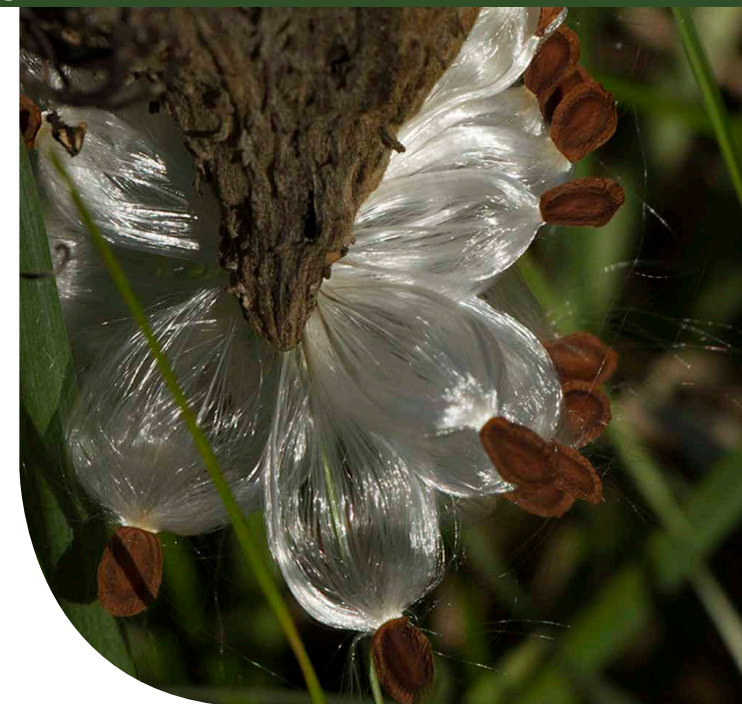
I want to send a **HUGE** shout out to our amazing Deer Hunter Association, Barberryland land management volunteers, and community organizations including: The Cawley Company, Americollect, Red Arrow, YMCA youth summer camp, and Two Rivers High School for all of their help planting trees this year. We were able to:

- Cut rolls of chicken wire into cages. These protect the trees from damage caused by deer. Volunteers **cut 42 rolls of 4' x 150' chicken wire** into 2' or 4' sections for securing around the trees.
- Unload a semi-trailer full of trees. Ten volunteers and four staff members **spent 8 hours unloading over 3,000 trees and shrubs**. The semi didn't arrive at our preserve until early afternoon, making for a very long day.
- Care for 3,000 trees. Interns and volunteers watered the trees daily until they were planted, ensuring that the trees and shrubs survived. The trees arrived on May 3 and the last tree went in the ground on September 12. This is **132 days of watering** trees and shrubs!
- Plant and cage approximately 3,000 trees in the heart of our nature preserve. This also involved moving the trees, shrubs, and

supplies from our staging area to the middle of the preserve, where they were planted. In addition to staff and interns, our land management, deer hunter, and local community organization volunteers put in a lot of man power in order to make this project a success. Working conditions included **summer heat and humidity and thirsty mosquitoes and deer flies**.

- Log a total of **1,072 hours of volunteer time** match for our grant, which provided us with **\$25,256 of in-kind match funds**.

This planting, funded by the U.S. Forest Service GLRI, Wisconsin Public Service and The Nature Conservancy C.D. Buzz Besadny grant, is diversifying our native tree and shrub community in preparation for the loss of our ash trees to emerald ash borer. This will help keep the invasive species out as well as enhance the filtration system in our wetlands. We have at least one more year of this project and will again need to rely on our volunteers to help keep our rare habitat healthy.



As a Thank You to our volunteers for all of their hard work, we would like to invite them to a Land Management Volunteer Appreciation breakfast on Wednesday December 12 starting at 9:30AM. Please RSVP to Jeni at 920-793-4007 or jenniferp@woodlanddunes.org for accurate food count.

Jennifer Klein, Land Management Coordinator

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Mary & Paul Johnsrud

How long have you been involved at WD and why did you decide to volunteer?

Paul - I have volunteered for about 3 years. Our daughter-in-law, Jess, mentioned the Dunes could use some help with projects or maintenance. I enjoy working outside so it was a perfect fit.

Mary - 2 years. I really enjoy gardening and our daughter-in-law asked if I'd be interested in volunteering in the butterfly garden.

What do you most enjoy about being involved with WD?

Paul - It's great listening to nature while working. Seeing the staff working with visitors helps educate me as well as pushes me to do my best. (It's also a plus to see our daughter-in-law more).

Mary - the peacefulness, beauty, wonder, and sounds of nature that surrounds me while working in the garden and trying to outsmart the weeds, which is impossible!

What are some of your favorite pastimes or hobbies?

Paul - Camping, hiking and doing things with our five grandchildren (they range in age from 12yrs to one week).

Mary - Spending time with family and friends, playing board games, being outside and going on adventures.

Words of wisdom for other volunteers?

Paul - There's nothing more invigorating than working in nature and meeting people who are also interested in nature.

Mary - Volunteering at WD is so flexible. You can volunteer as much or as little as your life dictates.

Anything else you'd like to add?

Mary - If you've never been to WD, just go - mosey around, walk a trail, ask questions and begin to enjoy. WD encompasses so much - it's amazing!

Motus

Over the years, tens of thousands of birds have been caught, banded, and released at Woodland Dunes. Some of those banded birds were recovered here at one time and some were recovered in other locations. Ever since bird banding was initiated in the US more than 100 years ago, more than a million banded birds have been recovered. Banding has taught us about bird movements and life spans, but this system relies on others catching these birds, recording, and submitting data. Unfortunately, most birds that are banded are never recovered. Our friends to the north, at Bird Studies Canada, have developed a different approach - a collaborative system of radio telemetry stations to record the movements of tagged birds called Motus ("movement" in Latin). Woodland Dunes was approached to be one of the first Motus receiving stations in Wisconsin.

Thanks to the generosity of Steve Lankton and the cooperation of the Wisconsin DNR, we will soon track tagged birds, which either pass through or live in our preserve. This information will be very helpful to researchers tracking bird movements, and ultimately we will be able to generate such research ourselves. Look for more exciting information about this in the near future.



Let us turn your annual life passions into a perennial reality.

You live a life full of passion and consciously make meaningful decisions to enhance the world we live in. When thinking about how you can create a mindful legacy, please consider a gift to Woodland Dunes. One way is to contribute to our Endowment Fund. We want to turn your annual dreams into a perennial reality. For more information, please visit our website: <https://www.woodlanddunes.org/planned-giving/> or call Jim Knickelbine at (920) 793-4007.

SAVE THE DATE!



5K Trail Run/Walk Fundraiser

Saturday, April 27th 10:00am

DASH AT THE DUNES

Be the first to sign up @

www.signup.itsracetime.com/Race/WI/TwoRivers/DashattheDunes

This course is a beautiful 5k trail run/walk that begins in the parking lot behind Aurora Medical Center, then leads to a section of the Ice Age Trail. You will walk/run through forested ridges and swales, across small bridges and through a secluded meadow. The last 3/4 of a mile runs along Columbus Street, crosses Hawthorne Avenue, and ends at our Nature Center.

This is a friendly race event at a bit of a slower pace due to the roots, surprise "trail trolls," and natural terrain. Give it a go! And then sprint for time when you hit the street!

Youth participants 12 and under will automatically receive a discount during registration and be able to register for the price of \$10.

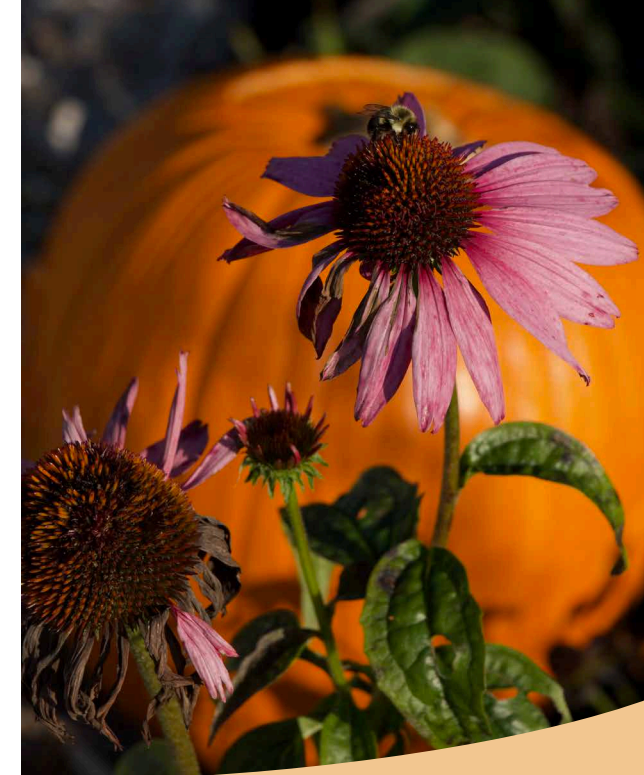
Dash with us to help support our beautiful habitat and children's nature-based education programs!



Addition to Ravine Park Preserve

Last year, Woodland Dunes received a bequest of land, which contains remarkable diversity and wildlife along the Manitowoc River from Glenn Strodthoff. This area, long ago, was known as Ravine Park. Recently, Glenn's sister, Ann Jerdee of Sturgeon Bay, donated additional land to the preserve adjacent to Glenn's. We are grateful for her thoughtful donation.

The Ravine Park Preserve is considered only a wildlife preserve at this time. We do not have public trails on the property and use it on a limited basis for education. As per Glenn's wishes, for now we will manage the property for the benefit of nature, and expand use of the property as our capacity permits.



Dorothy Star Butterfly Garden

All spring, summer and early fall, the garden buzzed with busy bees and curious people. Our very popular "Rockin' the Butterfly Garden" event in June led to nearly 20 hand-painted rocks being laid around the plants to enhance the beauty of the space. They also add an educational element for visitors who picked up the rocks to read garden factoids on the back side. We also placed labels throughout the garden to identify many native pollinator and host plants as they bloomed throughout the months. Our excellent compost bins, built in mid-summer by Paul Johnsrud and Joe Cisler, have been really useful. We look forward to experimenting with creating our own mulch next season!

The bees were amazing this year. Some days there were so many on a particular plant I couldn't even count them all! It was fun pointing them out to summer camp kids, Owl Fest visitors, and everyday guests. Hardworking volunteers kept the weeds at bay, and the pond had as many as 13 frog inhabitants at a time. The osprey family and many other birds filled the air with their lively calls. No one can ever say they feel alone in the garden! Now that the dormant season is upon us, the plants remain as food sources and resting places for winter critters. If you didn't get to spend time in the garden this year, make a point of visiting often in 2019!

Wendy Lutzke
Environmental Educator/Butterfly Garden Coordinator

UPCOMING EVENTS

Raising a Wild Child Preschool Program

Thursdays December 13th, January 10th & February 14th
9:00-10:30am
Members: \$2/child
Non-members: \$3/child

Experience the wonders of nature with your 2-5 year old with 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. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Dress for the weather.



Winter Owl Program

Tuesday, December 18th
6:00-7:30pm

We'll start inside and learn about common owls found in Wisconsin during the winter. Then enjoy a guided night hike to look and listen for owls in the preserve. Hot chocolate served after. Space is limited, registration required by Friday, December 14th. Sponsored by Next Era Point Beach Nuclear Plant.



Kids and Caregivers Yoga, Hike and Craft

Thursday, December 27th
9:30-11:30am
\$15/family (up to 4, \$5 per extra child)

Need a fun, nature inspired, 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 at the Center. Dress for 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 21st.



My Life in the Alaska Arctic

Tuesday, January 22nd
1:00-1:45pm

R.T. "Skip" Wallen, creator of the *Spirit of the Rivers* monument, is best known for his art, but his career began as a wildlife biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Join us as Skip talks about his time with the Inupiat people on Little Diomed Island located in the Bering Strait. Registration necessary by Friday, January 18th. Sponsored by Next Era Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

Candlelight Night

Saturday, February 2nd
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 s'mores. 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.



Restoration of the Forget-me-Not Creek Watershed

Thursday, February 7th
1:30-2:30pm



Forget-Me-Not Creek is a small stream that flows through Woodland Dunes south to Lake Michigan. Join Jim Knickelbine as he explains how Woodland Dunes is improving this waterway to provide a better home for fish and other aquatic life, as well as wildlife living along its shores. Registration appreciated by Monday, February 4th. Sponsored by Next Era Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

Snoga at the Dunes

Saturday, February 16th
10:00am-Noon
\$15/person or \$25/couple if registered by Thursday, February 14th
\$20/person or \$30/couple walk-in, if space available

Join us for the 5th annual Snoga at the Dunes with certified yoga instructor Jennifer Jelenic. 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. After, warm beverages and light snacks served in the Nature Center. Dress for the weather and easy movement - layers are best. We'll be on the trails for 1-1.5 hours depending on conditions. Snowshoes available, but are limited to 10 sets for adults, 10 medium sets for 130lbs and less, and 10 sets for children (best for ages



4+ with parent permission). Pre-registration recommended to ensure snowshoes. If no snow, we will hike on foot. Minimum of 6 people to run event.

Full Moon Walk

Tuesday, February 19th
5:30-7:30pm

Donations appreciated
Explore our trails by the light of the full moon! Bring family and friends along for this self-guided experience. The Nature Center will be open and if there is snow, adult and kids' snowshoes will be available to rent on a first come, first served basis. Members - \$5/pair, Non-members - \$8/pair. You can also bring your own snowshoes. Note: trails are not groomed.

Enchanted Forest

It was a wonderful and captivating evening at the Enchanted Forest in early October! Skunk, Spider, Fox and other forest critters made appearances and attendees enjoyed the pumpkin walk, games, and investigating the sky shed. Thank you to everyone who participated, including our invaluable volunteers and sponsors - Manitowoc Sunrise Optimist Club, Kohl's and Festival Foods.



Snowshoe Rental:

Members: \$5/pair
Non-members: \$8/pair

When it hits, enjoy the fluffy white stuff in snowshoes!



We have sizes that accommodate children and adults. Recommendation: Call the Nature Center first to make sure there are enough available.

Phorests Are Phunky Photo Contest!

Trees are AMAZING and curiously beautiful! Capture your best seasonal tree images and send us two that you would like to see published. Get your mind a thinkin', aperture settings ready, and cameras clicking!



Rules: Cropping & Basic editing allowed. No removal or addition of objects, such as a moon in the composition. Photos must not have artist's name on the images to ensure fair and impartial judging.

Dec-March – Contest 1 – Winter, Deadline: Midnight March 31
April – June – Contest 2 – Spring, Deadline: Midnight June 30
July – August – Contest 3 – Summer, Deadline: Midnight August 31
Sept – November – Contest 4 – Fall, Deadline: Midnight November 30

Send two high-resolution photos per season to: nancyn@woodlanddunes.org. Please mention photo contest in the subject line.

Winners will be published in the Dunesletter, on our website and Facebook, and receive a complimentary year's membership to Woodland Dunes.

Sponsored in part by the US Forest Service.

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

T H A N K Y O U

Memorials/Honorarials

In memory of Bernie Brouchoud
Ken & Jody Kuchar
Susan Boettger & Bill Gruenbaum

In memory of Dianne Nonnemacher
James & Mary Sweetman

In memory of Willard & Jane Zahn
Sherry Jost

In memory of Robert Ayers
Mona Moen

In memory of Shirley Kiefer
Mona Moen

*In honor of the marriage of
Chris Erdman & Geri Torte*
Tom & Betsy Kocourek

*In honor of Hal Just's
90th birthday*
Nancy Dalton

In honor of Philip Rees' birthday
David Rees

Grants

Mark & Michelle Klaiber
Foundation

Hooper Foundation

Norsetter Family
Foundation

Donations

Ann Jerdee, land at
Ravine Park Preserve

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Marge Krieser

Dutch Bunch

Humble Bundle

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Starfish Graphics

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– Ken & Marilyn Evers

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T H A N K Y O U

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Please accept our apologies for any errors or omissions. Please contact us with corrections.



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