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FROM THE DIRECTOR

People often ask what we have been doing lately, assuming that with this nasty virus running loose we would be deprived of work. Actually, we're very busy, in some cases more than usual as we find ways to adapt to the public health issues we're faced with. We haven't been able to teach in the traditional ways, but have come up with new methods to connect people to nature. We don't organize groups of people here the way we used to, but many people still visit, perhaps more than in previous years. It's wonderful to see our visitors enjoying the trails, grounds, gardens, and the preserve, and we are truly reminded how important it is to spend time in nature. It teaches us, nourishes us, and heals us, and there is such a great need for all of those things right now.

“ We are truly reminded how important it is to spend time in nature ”

Our new addition is open to the public weekdays and ready for future events. We're still putting on finishing touches - planting on the outside and display development on the inside. Covid is making fundraising a bit more challenging, and although the addition itself is finished, we're still working on critical aspects of the Center. We welcome any continued support for this, our most significant project ever.

Our new restored wetland complex on Woodland Drive is now past the earthmoving phase and is being planted in an 80- acre mosaic of prairie, shrub swamp, and re-created ridges and swales. We have been documenting the change in birdlife using the area and look forward to tracking the

changes as the vegetation matures. Birds are spreading out into the new wetland from our existing preserve across the road. The changes in the ecosystem there are exciting to see. In a few years we'll be able to construct a trail so that our visitors can explore this area as well.

We're also conducting additional restoration work across Woodland Drive near the wetland created by WPS, as well as the wooded parcel east of Taylor Street. This will restore a degraded area of ridges and swales used heavily by birds.

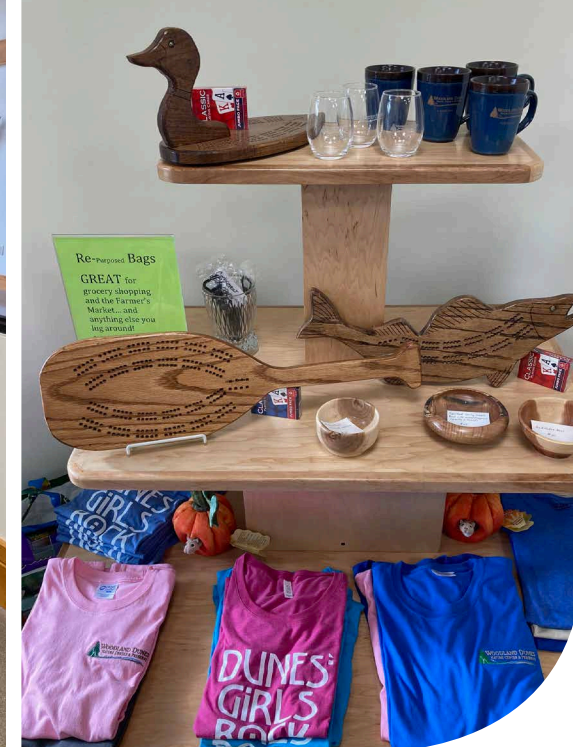
We are happy to work with the City of Manitowoc to provide additional access to Camp Vits Park adjacent to property we own there. The City will be developing a parking area, picnic area, and restrooms, with an accessible trail crossing part of our property to the park, with beautiful views, mature forest, and river access.

Our bird monitoring projects continue, including our Motus remote sensing station, bird counts, and banding. Other recent monitoring here revealed a federally endangered bumblebee and a new record of a State-threatened plant.

As we move into winter, we plan to promote outdoor fun with snowshoe hikes. We're also planning a fun virtual version of our Tropical Blast fundraiser that you can enjoy from the comforts of your home. I would like to thank each of you for your continued support for our mission, and wish for you good health and safety until we can gather again.

~ Jim Knickelbine, Executive Director





Christmas Gifts From Our Shop!

Looking for unique Christmas gifts this year? Why not give them something meaningful and supports Woodland Dunes at the same time?

Hiking sticks: We have unique hiking sticks that were carved by beavers that allow for a perfect notch at the top of the stick for your thumb. You cannot buy a commercially made hiking stick that will fit your hand as well. (John Muir, Sigurd Olson and Aldo Leopold always used hiking sticks.)

Marvel Meal Logs: These winter bird feeders have been tooth crafted by busy beavers of the Wolf River. Attractive and functional. A fantastic Marvel Meal recipe is included that will draw your winter birds to your feeder. Once up, send us your photos!

Cozy mittens, cribbage boards, another batch of honey and more! Come take a look and let us know how we can make your holiday giving easier this year!

Volunteers We Thank You!

This year has been a great challenge. Unfortunately, we have not been able to hold many of the events we like, including our volunteer thank you picnic. We apologize for that. We treasure our volunteers who fully help us continue our mission and do so much to keep the nature center running.

Please know how grateful we are to each one of you and how thankful we are for your help. One of the best things about Woodland Dunes is how wonderful people work together to make our little piece of Earth a better place. We miss seeing you, working with you, and thanking you! We look forward to when we can do so again. In the meantime, know that we are thinking of you and so appreciate your help.

James Kuehler

“**Why Do You Support Woodland Dunes?**
I grew up without nature experiences. When we moved to Two Rivers, Helen Dicke Krivacek took me to Woodland Dunes. It was like opening a door on a whole world I didn't know much about. I have always loved animals, and was immediately drawn to the huge number of plants that live at Woodland Dunes. Volunteering as a Teacher Naturalist, I felt I was helping the students to have that same “a HA” moment I had many years ago. — Lucy Zeldenrust



SAVE *the* DATE





6:30-7:00
OPTIONAL
Virtual
Cocktail Hour
& Steel Drums
WITH INSTRUCTIONAL

Virtual Tropical Blast Fundraiser

to Benefit Woodland Dunes Nature Center & Preserve

Saturday, February 27, 2021 7-8 pm

*\$75 per person – 1 swag box,
\$600 - swag boxes for 8 people, \$750 - swag boxes for 10 people
Evening: Tropical trivia, gem raffle, wine raffle, tropical dress contest and more!
*Swag box – Courthouse Pub gift certificate, tropical goodies and surprises.
(Will be delivered one week before event.)

All proceeds support year-round, nature-based education and conservation programs at Woodland Dunes Nature Center & Preserve.



For more information, please contact Nancy at Woodland Dunes: 920-793-4007 or www.woodlanddunes.org











MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Tropical Blast Goes Virtual in 2021

Get ready to have a BLAST with a twist!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 27, 7:00 pm.

Keeping everyone safe during this time of Covid is of utmost importance, so we're bringing the tropics to you from the comfort of your own home!

Get ready for tropical fun with a beautiful gem raffle, wine raffle, fantastic auction, tropical-dressed contest, steel drums, and more!

In lieu of dinner seats, we will deliver tropical swag boxes to you the week before the event with gift certificates from Courthouse Pub plus other wonderful goodies and tropical surprises.

Please help us raise \$40,000 to educate children about the wonders of nature and protect our unique and precious preserve.

If you have attended in the past, an invitation will be mailed to you in January just as before.



For more information go to: www.woodlanddunes.org under the Events tab and be sure to check back for updates, or call 920-793-4007 and ask for Nancy.





Woodland Dunes Nature Center & Preserve Installs EV Charger with Help from Two Rivers Water & Light

Woodland Dunes Nature Center & Preserve has a two-fold mission: to protect our globally important habitat by maintaining its ecological integrity, and to educate our community in understanding and appreciating the value of nature.

To help protect the environment and encourage the advancement of electric vehicle (EV) technology, the nature center recently installed an Energy Star certified Level 2 EV charger. To support their efforts, Two Rivers Water & Light provided \$2,000 in funding from their wholesale power provider, WPPI Energy. A not-for-profit organization, WPPI Energy has an EV Technologies Initiative to assist organizations interested in installing EV chargers.

"The nature center has been a steward of the environment for some time," said Greg Skurupey, Energy Services Manager for Two Rivers

Show above from left to right:
 Brian Dellemann: Associate Electric Utility Director, Two Rivers Water and Light
 Jim Knickelbine: Executive Director, Woodland Dunes Nature Center
 Greg Skurupey: Energy Services Manager, WPPI Energy

Water & Light. "Along with the EV charging station, they have installed a geothermal system and a 4.25 kW Solar DG array as well."

Installed in September, the charger is already in use. The charger can charge 20-25 miles per hour, with a cost of \$0.71 per hour. While their vehicle charges, users are encouraged to explore the 1,500 acres of hardwood & conifer forests, wetlands, and prairies located between Two Rivers and Manitowoc Wis., including seven miles of hiking trails. To learn more, visit woodlanddunes.org.

"We are really excited to see EV technology gaining popularity in Two Rivers," stated Skurupey. "The utility is committed to being environmentally responsible, and our staff is here and ready to help residents and businesses who may be interested in installing EV chargers."

Cultural Grant Awarded to Woodland Dunes

In November, Governor Tony Evers announced that \$15 million in COVID-19 Cultural Organization Grants had been awarded to 385 cultural organizations across Wisconsin. Woodland Dunes was one of them.

"Just like small businesses, cultural organizations have taken a major financial hit," said DOA Secretary Joel Brennan. "We're all in this together. We hope that these funds will make it possible for us to be able to enjoy the museums, theaters, nature centers, and music from these organizations once it is safe to do so again."

Administered by the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA), the COVID-19 Cultural Organizations Grant program provides grants to nonprofit organizations whose primary missions are to produce, present, or exhibit cultural disciplines such as music, dance, theater, literature, and the visual arts, or items of environmental or scientific interest.



Peter Koch

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

I've been involved with Woodland Dunes since 1980 and was asked to be a group leader in 1990. The reason I became involved with W.D. had a lot to do with my parents, Clarence and Josephine Koch, who both came from farming backgrounds. I spent the early years of my life working on the Andrew and Ann Kasmer farm in Tish Mills. Working outside, driving tractors and pickup trucks at 12 years old was a blast. In the early 60s my parents teamed up with the Alfred and Delores Baum family and we built a 17th century style 1.5 story log cabin next to the Rahr School Forest in Point Beach. To stay close to nature, we didn't want any modern conveniences. We had a wood burning stove, kerosene lanterns, an icebox, and outside outhouse.

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

I remember when Bernie (Brouchoud) was by himself and his vision about WD was even bigger than he thought it could be. He never wanted us to use any power tools of any kind. He never wanted to intentionally disturb any of the natural resources if at all possible at the Nature Center. Through the years in my professional life I had outstanding support from our Two Rivers community. In 2008 I lost seven friends and that made me do some serious thinking about life. My two boys took over my business (it took two young guys to take the place of this one old guy), and now I feel I should give back to our community for all that was given to me all those years.

What are some of your favorite pastimes or hobbies?

Associations: Lifetime member of the Harley Davidson Owners Group, National Rifle Association, Westshore Sportsman Club, Badger State Archeological Society of Wisconsin, Roger Street Fishing Village board member, and numerous gun collecting organizations. I also enjoy deer hunting, metal detecting, Native American artifact collecting, fishing, bicycle and motorcycle riding and kayaking.

Words of wisdom for other volunteers?

The future of WD depends on what we do today. Get involved and become part of something that will benefit everyone. Every project that I was involved with brings back memories of good times: laughter, jokes, pranks and friendships that will last forever. Volunteer as much or as little as you are able. Stay socially, mentally, and physically active with others and just enjoy life.

Anything else you'd like to add?

Thank you Bernie for what you started. Thank you, Jim and the entire staff, for what has been accomplished and what will be in the future.



WE ARE WISCONSIN & WE ARE RESILIENT!

Proud Grant Recipient

COVID-19 Cultural Organization Grant Program

GOVERNOR **TONY EVERS** WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION



Bank First Donates to Woodland Dunes Capital Campaign

Representatives of Bank First presented a large check to Woodland Dunes Nature Center in support of its capital campaign and their largest fundraiser, the Tropical Blast, which will be held on February 27, 2021.

Left to right: Chuck and Marilyn Sontag - Honorary Chairs of the capital campaign, Jeff Zimmerlee of Bank First, Woodland Dunes Executive Director – Jim Knickelbine, Dennis Tienor and Betty Bittner of Bank First, Don and Ellen Lewellen – chairs of the campaign, and Tom Kocourek, president of the Woodland Dunes board of directors.

SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS!

Nancy Nabak, Communication & Development Coordinator for Woodland Dunes, has been selected as the 2019-2020 Two Rivers Optimist Member of the Year. Nancy joined the Club in 2018 and has attended or participated in nearly every event since that time. She works in Manitowoc Co but lives in Green Bay -- so this is no easy feat! Nancy has also received the Rookie of the Year award in her first year. Regardless of the task, Nancy lends a hand without question and has taken over as chair of the Fire Fighter Appreciation event. Her smiling face is a welcoming sight for both the Club and the public!



Judy Goodchild, Woodland Dunes Tropical Blast volunteer, received the Club's Best award in recognition of her endless effort to support the club. Judy has been an Optimist member for 20 years and in that time held positions as secretary and president and chaired various committees. In 2004-2005, Judy reigned as Governor of the Wisconsin North – Upper Michigan District, which includes Two Rivers and 69 other clubs. Her leadership skills have helped with club successes and recognition internationally.

The vision of the Optimist International is to value all children and help them develop to their fullest potential.

In the eyes of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, "If you want to be a true professional, you will do something outside yourself. Something to repair the tears in your community. . .

a meaningful life is living not for oneself, but for one's community."

We commend and celebrate your dedication, Nancy and Judy! Congratulations!

Dawn Hilliker, Two Rivers Optimist Club



The Butterfly Garden

A Big Thanks to Rotarians in Action

On September 29th an energetic group of members from the Rotary Club of Two Rivers put their hearts and hands into planting and weeding in the Dorothy R. Star Butterfly Garden. After receiving a Rotary District Grant in July, they were able to supply patio furniture, pond plants, and pollinator plants to our newly refurbished garden. We appreciate their hard work and cheerful attitudes on what was a bit of a blustery day! We can all look forward to seeing the fruits of their labors when spring rolls around. Until then, the garden will be a wonderful source of food and protection for wildlife throughout the winter.

*Wendy Lutzke
Butterfly & Bee Garden Coordinator*

Birds can't see glass,

and because of this, one billion are killed each year in the U.S. as they try to navigate around houses, office buildings, and other obstacles.

Birds hit glass because:

- Reflections of vegetation or landscape attract birds to collide with glass.
- Green habitat inside buildings with see-through glass can lure birds to their deaths.
- Glass corners or narrow passages can allow birds to see through to habitat on the other side of a building, and they die trying to fly through.

Ways we are helping:

- anti-reflective film
- zen curtains
- manufactured bird-friendly glass

For more information on how you can prevent bird strikes, go to www.abcbirds.org



Anti-reflective film



Zen curtains



Manufactured bird-friendly glass

T H A N K Y O U

Memorials/Honorarials

In memory of Josie Thyerl
Robert and Deborah Bonk

In memory of Susan Polk
LouAnn Gray
Tom & Betsy Kocourek
Morris & Irene Mellion
CK & Pamela Mowry
Michael Roenquist
Frederick Wilson
Illinois State Medical Society

In memory of Audrey Bean
Daniel Hornung & Anne Schuette
William & Nancy Jagemann
Michael Laughrin
Donald Sieker

In memory of Joseph W Cisler
James & Karen Johnson
Robert Schwab

In memory of Daniel Luckow
Harlas & Joan Luckow

In memory of Charles Girkin
Kathy Peterson
Lucy Zeldenrust

In memory of Jeanne Satori
Greg Satori

In memory of Lois Bush
Kathryn Taddy

In honor of Ellen Lewellen
Gail Terry

In memory of Beverly Vareka
Beverly Vareka Estate

In honor of Gaby Fields
Steven Hefner

Donations

LouAnn Gray
Katie Jansen
Tom & Betsy Kocourek
Steven Lankton
Michael Pintok & Cindy Lupin
Dolly McNulty
RJ Real Estate
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Herman Balaban
Debra Braun
Jeffrey Brouchoud
Lucille DeWein
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Dennis & Mary Swetlik
Robert & Peggy Turnbull
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Formrite Company
Nash Family Foundation
White Cap Insurance Agency
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Baycare Clinic

Woodland Dunes Endowment Fund

Dolly McNulty

Fund Drive

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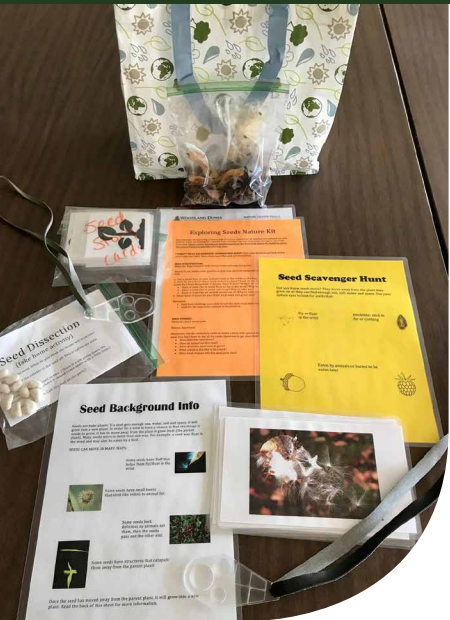
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New Nature Kits

Are you looking for outdoor, screen-free activities for your preschool through 3rd and 4th grade kids? We have new nature kits available at Woodland Dunes!

Check out a kit at the front desk and use the activities to learn more about nature while on the trails. Kits have four or five activities based on a theme and directions and supplies are included.

Please note, they are for onsite use and need to be returned the same day. Materials will be cleaned and restocked after each use. Kits are available first come, first served.

This is a great way for your kids to get their P.E. time in and learn about the natural world in their community! The Nature Center is open Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:00pm. Can't make it to the Dunes during open hours? You can reserve a home nature kit to take offsite and use in any green space! Contact Jess at jessicaj@woodlanddunes.org for more information. We hope you'll take a nature break with us! Sponsored by Cellcom.

Seed Nature Kits available
Friday, November 6th-Wednesday, November 25th

Animal Signs Nature Kits available
Friday, December 4th-Wednesday, December 30th

Adult Learning Series Goes Virtual

The adult learning series is moving to a virtual format and it's simple to participate! Register by calling 793-4007 or emailing Jess at jessicaj@woodlanddunes.org with your name, phone number and email address. You will receive an email with directions and a link to the presentation. Contact Jess with any questions.

Restoring Wild Rice at Green Bay Coastal Wetlands

Tuesday, November 17th
7:00pm

The bay of Green Bay is the world's largest freshwater estuary and one of the most productive systems in the Great Lakes. However, Green Bay and its watersheds have a long history of intensive use and modification, including loss of wetland habitat. Recent efforts have emerged to actively restore aquatic vegetation to improve coastal wetland habitat within Green Bay. Jade Arneson, a recent UW-Green Bay graduate, will share her Masters thesis work evaluating the restoration potential of wild rice, a native annual grass once historically abundant within Green Bay and its tributaries. Registration required by Monday, November 16th. Sponsored by Next Era Point Beach Nuclear Plant.



Geologic History of Northeastern Wisconsin

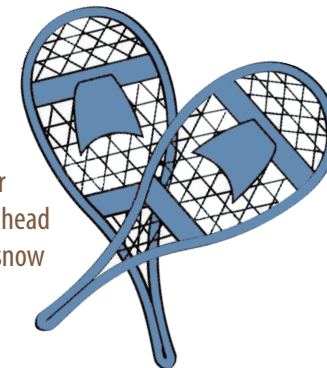
Tuesday, January 5th
2:00pm

Join UWGB Geoscience Professor John Luczaj for a description of the Geology of northeastern Wisconsin, with a focus on the Niagara

Escarpment and related features. The presentation will focus on how and why the Niagara Escarpment formed, the history of glacial activity in the region, and some interesting places you can visit. Registration required by Monday, January 4th. Sponsored by Next Era Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

Snowshoe Rentals

Spice up your next winter walk in the preserve with snowshoes! Snowshoes will be available to rent at the front desk for \$5/pair and are for use in the preserve. Please call ahead to make sure there is adequate snow cover. Adult sizes and children's sizes (fit most kids 4 years and older) are available.



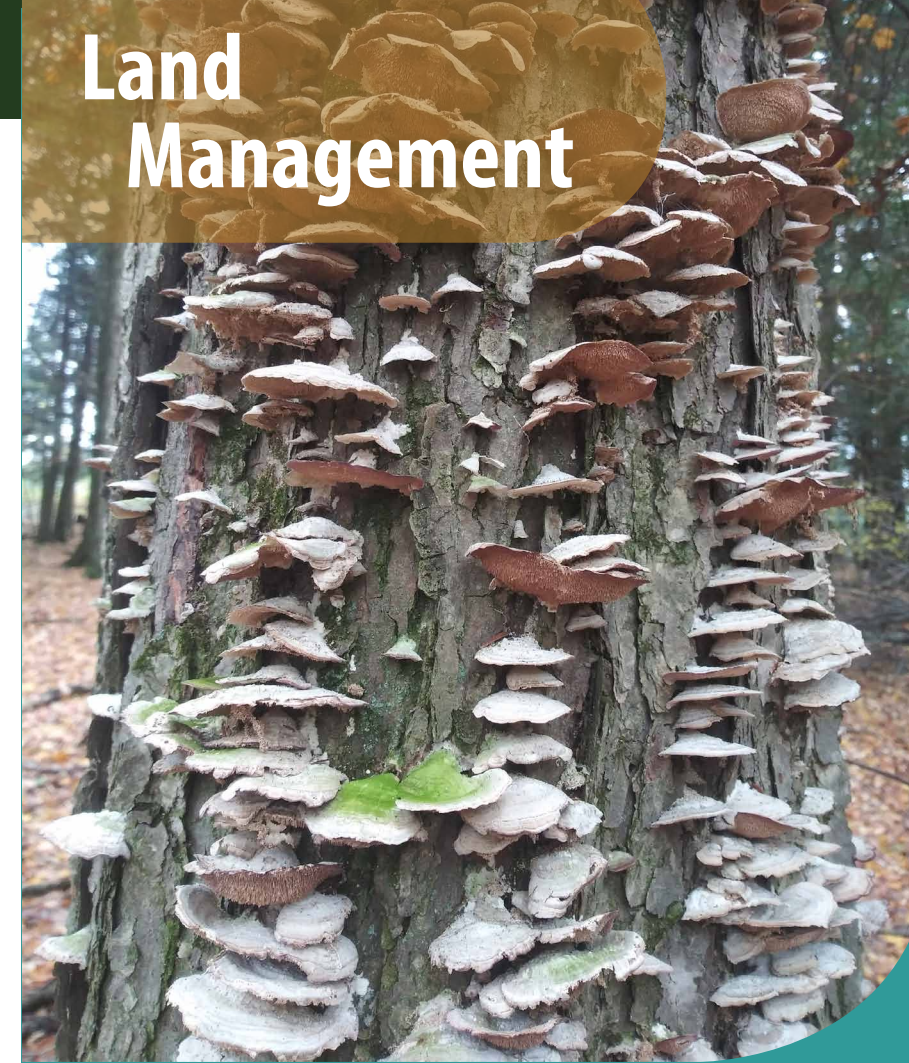
Restoring Wetlands and Migratory Stopover Habitat in Manitowoc County's Clay Plain Soils

Tuesday, December 8th
6:30pm

Wetland restoration ecologists with environmental consulting firm, Stantec, worked with staff from Woodland Dunes and funding from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to restore a mosaic of wetland and upland habitats on an 80-acre drained soybean field. The project restored the hydrologic regime to near pre-settlement conditions and created microtopography with ephemeral wetlands typically found in the local glacial till landscape unique to Manitowoc County. This presentation, given by Jon Gumtow, Senior Wetland Scientist with Stantec, will focus on the history, challenges, and partnerships associated with converting a soybean field to a high-quality wetland complex and the associated wildlife response. Registration required by Monday, December 7th. Sponsored by Next Era Point Beach Nuclear Plant.



Land Management



Land management has been busy wrapping up this year's field work and prepping for the spring. All the caging we'll need for tree protection next spring is being stored in our barn, waiting for us to cut and bundle it over the winter. Our trees for this coming spring are ordered and we wish them a gentle winter slumber. Fall field preparations and plantings taking place right now will produce next year's prairie fields, and many grant applications are being sent out in hopes of funding our greatest needs.

One new program from this year, our Trail Saver 20, is off to a great start. Membership has grown and we have one "Member's Only" event under our belt. Our fall night-time fungus hike brought staff and TS20 members out in the preserve to learn about and identify some neat fall mushrooms. Fun was had by all, and we learned some really interesting and lesser known facts about mushrooms along our trails.

Trail Saver 20 is a dedicated fund for trail maintenance and upkeep such as boardwalk repairs and invasive species removal. Thanks to our pioneer members, we were able to purchase lumber to repair Yellow Birch Trail, where many seasons of ground freezing and thawing had pushed the boardwalk sideways, creating sort of a rollercoaster hike. I encourage everyone to go out on this trail and see the improvements for themselves. And today, our Executive Director sent me this note: "Walked on Yellow Birch this morning-it looks better than it has in 10 years."

— Jeni Klein, Land Management Coordinator



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



WOODLAND DUNES

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Hours

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

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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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<i>Assistant Director/ Education Coordinator</i>	Jess Johnsrud
<i>Communications & Development Coordinator</i>	Nancy Nabak
<i>Land Management Coordinator/ Tech Support</i>	Jennifer Klein
<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Jenifer Thompson
<i>Environmental Educator/ Butterfly Garden Coordinator</i>	Wendy Lutzke

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|--------------------------------|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | Individual |
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|----------------------------------|-------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | Conservator | <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to contribute to the endowment fund. Please contact me. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | Benefactor | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 | Steward | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 | Guardian | |

Please send this form and your tax-deductable membership to Woodland Dunes!