

CONTENTS

- 2 Grand Opening
- 3 Owl Fest
Volunteer Spotlight
- 4 Butterfly Garden
Tropical Blast 2022
- 5 Where Art
Meets Science
- 6 Summer Interns
- 8 Events
- 9 Active Nest
- 10 Thank You
Land Management
- 11 We Have Swifts!

FROM THE DIRECTOR

The excitement that seems to be defining the year 2021 continues. This summer we are celebrating the resumption of additional children's programs, the dedication of our nature center addition, significant habitat improvements, and wonderful wildlife discoveries. I am so proud of our staff and volunteers for meeting the challenges which continue to insert a degree of uncertainty into our lives.

It is an honor to work with all of you, and I am thankful for what you do. Nature thanks you.

The wildlife, plants, and animals found here are the medicine that is needed in today's world, and we are lucky to be a part of it.

“The wildlife, plants, and animals found here are the medicine that is needed in today's world, and we are lucky to be a part of it.”

I was reminded of that when I walked on Willow Trail lately, a path that seemed to be covered with as many leopard frogs as there are blades of grass. Frogs of all sizes scattered in front of me as I walked. Frogs, that in many places don't find a clean place in which to live. In large portions of their western range, these animals are now gone- the result of many factors including pollution, non-native species, and climate change. They have been considered for Federal protection several times. Thankfully, they are still abundant here in our preserve, but we should appreciate that and never take it for granted. Nor the opportunity for our naturalists to take children out on flooded trails, overtopping their mud boots to look for them. A recent photo of a group of young children on a very wet Willow Trail was one of

the most wonderful images I've seen. They truly appeared to enjoy their frog discovery hike, in a way that as an adult I may have forgotten.

Similarly, the discovery of a red-shouldered hawk nest in our forest brought home to our interns and staff how special a forest can be. And how, so often, those special experiences are unknown

to those who don't spend time there. I really think the quality of a person's life is proportional to the amount of time spent outdoors in truly natural areas. It seems that the physical and emotional rewards of our outdoor experiences are being documented increasingly with each passing year. The work done to maintain the land: the tree planting,

wetland restoration, pollinator gardening, and other management is well worth the tremendous effort it takes to do so.

And we are so fortunate to have been able to expand our facility, our human home as it were. This was only made possible by the effort and the contributions of so many people. The appreciation you show for nature through your care for the preserve and our programs is circular. Through frogs and wildflowers, hawks and awe-struck children, nature is giving back to you as well.

As we prepare for new seasons and continuing change, let's keep moving in a positive direction. There's so much here to feel good about.

~ Jim Knickelbine, Executive Director





Grand Opening – What A Celebration!

In just two days, over 300 people helped us celebrate the opening of our new nature center addition. Our full house was warm with shared stories, families and friends exploring, and joyous support of our 50-year dream realized.



Secretary Joel Brennan

Brennan), Senator Tammy Baldwin's office (Jennifer Garner), the city of Two Rivers (Manager, Greg Buckley), and the Manitowoc Area Visitor and Convention Bureau (Jason Ring.) Our capital campaign chairs and honorary

On Thursday, July 29, we held our ribbon cutting ceremony with the Chamber of Manitowoc County and then heard inspiring messages from individuals representing the Governor of Wisconsin's Dept. of Administration (Secretary Joel

chairs also said words of praise and thanks to the community, our financial supporters, and the Alyea Family for jump-starting our improvement project.

During part of Ring's remarks, he reminded guests that in 2020, Wisconsin saw a 371% increase in searches for hikes and trails on the WI Dept of Tourism website, which leads visitors to Woodland Dunes. Being more capable now than ever of handling this increase in tourism is very exciting. He closed his remarks with a fitting John Muir quote: "Only by going alone in silence, without baggage, can one truly get into the heart of the wilderness. All other travel is mere dust and hotels and baggage and chatter."

Our campaign chairs, Don & Ellen Lewellen shared this sentiment:

"As you look around at this beautiful new addition and the surrounding preserve, you can be proud to know that children, youth, and adults will continue to learn about our natural world and their important place in it for many years to come. Thank you for your part in this project. It really did matter."

Lastly, Becky Gill, a family member of our lead donor, Laurel Alyea, shared these warm words that melted into everyone's hearts:

"The Alyeas have always been proud of their Wisconsin roots. Even though several of the siblings spread out around the country, some of my fondest childhood memories are of the nearly annual treks to some beautiful part of this state to relive "old days" and enjoy new adventures.

I understand the Alyea attraction to wildlife. From the fish that usually seemed to get away to annual bird lists to just enjoying the sounds of nature, the Alyeas have long cared about being in and preserving natural places.

Lastly, this place always reminds me of the value the Alyeas have for life-long friends. Our connection to Woodland Dunes comes through Chuck (Sontag), who was a childhood friend of my uncle Fred. In this transient day and age, it's so touching to me to be a part of a family who can keep their meaningful relationships over distance and decades."

Thank you to all of our fine supporters. We hope to see you soon.



Owl Fest – Once again, A Hoot!

What a great week of owl activities and awareness! Thank you to our Sponsor, ATC, for making it all happen. And thank you to those who made a donation for an Owl Fest T-shirt. We raised over \$500 for owl education programs at Woodland Dunes.



Habitat Manager, Jen Klein (far right), leads an interesting habitat restoration tour on Yellow Birch Trail.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Justin Meyer

How long have you volunteered at Woodland Dunes and why did you decide to get involved? I started volunteering in the summer of 2017 after going back to school to become a wastewater operator. I was vaguely aware of the threat of invasive species, but my environmental courses at NWTC really opened my eyes to how much damage has been done and how much could still happen. I have found treating wastewater and helping to protect our waterways to be extremely satisfying for a career, but there is nothing like planting a tree or removing a patch of honeysuckle.

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

What really makes this such a great place to volunteer at is the Woodland Dunes staff, interns and other volunteers. I've especially learned a lot from Jennifer and Kennedy and always leave a little smarter than when I started.

What are some of your favorite pastimes or hobbies?

Two Rivers is a wonderful place to live, and I enjoy kayaking on the East and West Twin Rivers and hiking on our wide variety of trails. I am also working on a long-term goal of segment hiking the entire Ice Age trail.

Words of wisdom for other volunteers?

With the never-ending stream of bad environmental news our phones, tablets and computers feed us, it can feel like we live in hopeless times. Even focusing on a single issue, like the emerald ash borer and the loss of our ash trees can feel like a job too big for any of us. The best way to overcome these feelings is to simply get out there and do something about it. None of us know what the future has in store, but I sleep a little better knowing there are a few more trees in the world and that I helped put them there.





Save The Date Tropical Blast 2022

Set aside **Saturday, February 19, 2022**
for the **Sixth Annual Tropical Blast fundraiser**
to benefit **Woodland Dunes**
from **5:00 to 9:00pm!**

We'll be back at the beautiful Sepia Chapel
with **fantastic food, and new surprises.**

It's a Blast in the winter!
Spend a night in the Caribbean with
live steel drums, tropical food and
drinks, auctions and more.

Sponsorships are now available.
Please help support our nature-based
education programs! Contact Nancy
at: nancyn@woodlanddunes.org

Nature Nerd Fact:

Baby chickadees will consume between 6,000 and 9,000 caterpillars in the 16 days between hatching and fledging. Not bad for a bird that weighs about 1/2 ounce when fully grown. - Doug Tallamy, professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware and author of *Bringing Nature Home*, 2007



Where Art Meets Science

By *Nancy Nabak*

Meeting and talking to artist, Becca Jabs, is like talking to a Mary Oliver poem. She has so much organic joy for nature. And her creations show it.

Jabs, a scientific illustrator and art educator by trade, was commissioned this spring to paint a mural depicting a ridge and swale system on our education room wall.

"I'm really enjoying myself on this project," said Jabs with a big smile and a fine paint brush, creating strokes on the wing of a cecropia moth.

Jabs, originally from Evansville, moved to the area for an art teaching job with the Manitowoc Public School District. In 2006, she left teaching to attend a graduate program in Science Illustration and now works as a freelance artist. Her passion for art began long ago.

"Every kid loves art and I did too. Luckily, I had parents and mentors who encouraged me. I've always been drawn to nature and natural subjects."

Jabs was given a list of plant and animal life to work with and she took it from there. Her creation is nothing less than spectacular.

"I walked trails on Goodwin Road and took photos to reference the colors, lighting, and biodiversity. It can be a challenge to achieve a scale that captures both the broad scope of a forest and also the smaller details of plant and animal life in a single scene."

One goal was to show how the light glows through the forest in the early morning and achieving atmospheric perspective through use of color. "It was also important for me to show two swales to depict the repetitive formations of a true ridge and swale system. It's different from a creek or lake-based habitat."

Jabs digitally painted her design in Photoshop first. She said much of her background is stylized to give it a storybook feel.

She wanted it to be a friendly place for youngsters to look at. "It's simplified to give young visitors new plants and animals to learn about and look for when they go on hikes."

Whenever possible, Jabs said she likes to communicate a visual story of the animals that are being depicted in her work. For example, the pileated woodpecker is on a cedar tree in the mural, and you can see the characteristic oblong hole it leaves as it searches for food beneath the tree bark. The salamander is curled up under the log, exactly where you would expect to find it and in its normal position.

The interpretive aspect of the mural is important to Jabs. She's got a bit of academia blended with an artist's eye. Her wish is to inspire viewers to look for and learn about the native plants and animals who share our home in Manitowoc County. "It's nice to know who your neighbors are. Being in nature is such a rich experience when you have the opportunity to learn."

We hope you'll stop by to view this beautiful mural. It'll give you a natural sense of calm and harmony. Plan on staying a while...

The Butterfly Garden

Milkweed & Monarchs Galore!

If you've walked into the Dorothy R. Star Butterfly & Bee Garden lately, you have probably seen that the milkweed plants are tall and healthy. We're happy that the monarch caterpillars on them have also grown fat and healthy! Did you know that each caterpillar can eat up to 20 milkweed leaves? Super munchers!

Maybe you've also noticed that we now have three different types of milkweed in our garden. The common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) is so big that some of it is bending onto the concrete path. Its fruits are currently puffing up with seed, getting ready to burst open later on!

We also have butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) with its bright orange umbels. This plant prefers sunny spots and is the only variety of milkweed that does not have milky sap as a defense mechanism. Its cheerful color is a delight as it blends with the purples, pinks, and yellows of other native plants nearby.

And finally, we're really pleased to have swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) with its purplish-pink umbels thriving in our garden. Despite the fact that it prefers wetland habitat, it is doing well in the shaded and damp areas of the garden. Monarch caterpillars have also been munching away on the leaves of these plants.

Each caterpillar we've seen will soon begin its metamorphosis into a chrysalis and will then emerge as a butterfly in about 10 days. After mating, the monarch will lay eggs and the process will start again.

As a Monarch Waystation it's important for our garden to provide a fitting habitat for the beautiful monarch in all its stages of life. Please enjoy a walk through the garden soon!

Wendy Lutzke
Butterfly & Bee Garden Coordinator

SUMMER INTERNS

Jackson Bjork

The experiences, knowledge, skills, and friends that I have gained over this summer working as a land management intern at Woodland Dunes is irreplaceable. This one-of-a-kind internship has afforded me countless learning opportunities that has helped with improving my environmental conservation and land management skills. I am currently a senior at UW – River Falls majoring in Conservation & Environmental Planning, which is why this internship has really been a great experience for me. It makes me appreciate the career path that I have chosen. There were many unique learning opportunities that I experienced including: helping to improve the coastal wetlands by planting 2500 native trees, participating in bat & bee surveys, and helping to control invasive species throughout the Preserve's prairies. One of the many skills that I was able to improve upon was expanding my knowledge of plant and animal identification for both native and invasive species. I am extremely thankful for the staff and all of the other interns for everything that I experienced with my time here in Two Rivers. I cannot wait to share and utilized my new skills and knowledge far into the future.

Jenna Brandl

Returning to the Woodland Dunes for a second summer has proven to be another amazing experience. Instead of planting trees, I am a part of the habitat restoration team (aka The Honeys) that is treating honeysuckle and surveying for the endangered rusty patched bumblebee. If you don't know much about the rusty patched bumblebee, Nancy Nabak wrote about it in our last newsletter, describing our efforts and what we'll be doing with our internship to help protect these bees, so I would recommend checking that out! Overall, this internship has been eye-opening to the importance of preserving these types of habitats - not only for the wildlife but for the entire ecosystem involved. With these new skills and knowledge, I will continue to pursue my Environmental Science minor and Marine Biology major at Wisconsin Lutheran College and hopefully take them into my future career.

Sydney Herman

It was an absolute pleasure to return to Woodland Dunes this summer as the environmental education intern! My responsibilities ranged from walking the turtles to leading portions of various summer camps and everything in between. The summer was packed with plenty of programs including field trips, summer camps, Nature Time Tuesdays, bird surveys, bat surveys, and so much more. Of these events, I especially enjoyed having a role in educating children about natural topics. It was gratifying to observe them interact with nature in new ways such as experimenting with water, tossing seeds in the wind, becoming experts of a prairie plant, and exploring macroinvertebrates in the pond. In addition to our programs, I was excited to participate in the official grand opening of the nature center, which could not have been possible without the incredible staff, interns, volunteers, and generous donors! When I return to St. Norbert College for my last semester, I intend to share my experiences and knowledge I gained over the course of my internship. The past two summers at Woodland Dunes have provided me with long-lasting memories, experience, and friendships and for that, I am extremely thankful to have been a part of this amazing organization!

Whitney Look

This summer I have been absolutely blessed as I was given an opportunity to become a land management intern here at Woodland Dunes. The fellow interns and I have participated in bird surveys and can distinguish a plethora of species that are found in many different regions through the state, which can be observed right here at Woodland Dunes. We also have been continuously identifying many native and invasive plant species that I can put towards my last semester this fall at UW-Stevens Point. This internship would not be the same without people that make it a one-of-a-kind, special place. We have grown into a family through multiple hours each day in the woods and enjoying all of our amazing adventures spent together. Everyone comes from different backgrounds and we are constantly learning more and more about the world together. I know this will be a summer I will not forget with the wonderful memories, and I will be forever grateful for the beautiful town of Two Rivers.

Frances Meyer

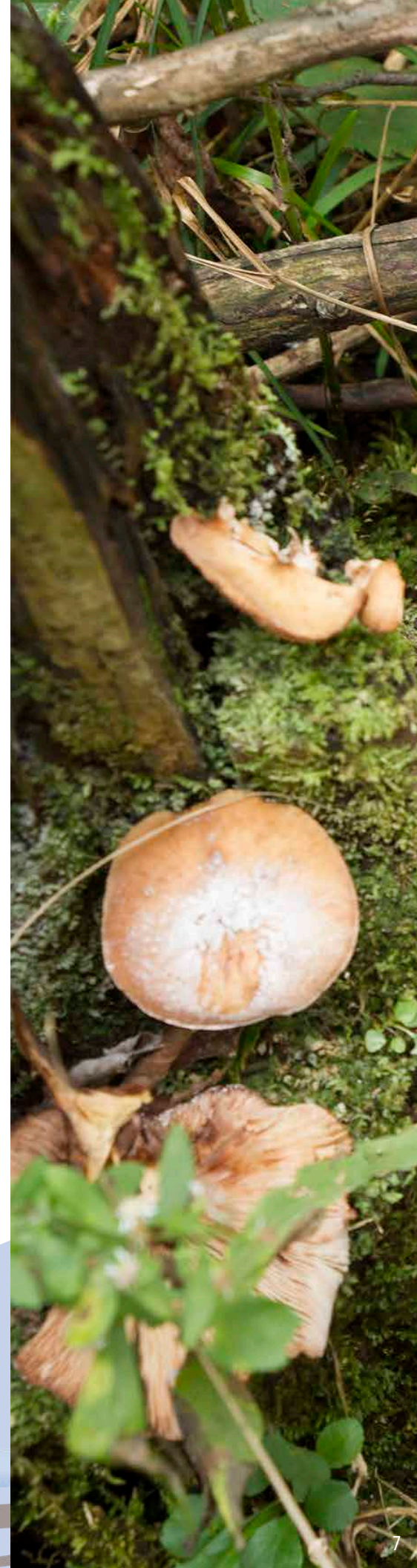
Working at Woodland Dunes as a land management intern this summer has taught me many new things. Most days consisted of planting various tree species in the surrounding woods where ash trees are present. Other days I was able to experience different activities as well, such as bird banding, bat surveys, and using my learned knowledge to write Ripples articles. The highlight of my summer working here was the discovery of the red-shouldered hawk's nest while planting trees with the other interns. I spent most of my first two semesters at UW-Madison behind a computer screen due to the pandemic. I was glad to finally be outside doing work I am passionate about with people who share this same interest. Overall, I was happy to get hands-on experience with land management and various other activities, and hope to use this knowledge while continuing my studies in wildlife ecology.

Jordan Troeger

I have absolutely loved interning this summer at Woodland Dunes! I've had so many amazing experiences during my time here, including volunteering with the DNR to band geese in Kewaunee County, participating in multiple bat surveys, restoring the ash forest by planting 2,500 various trees, and (most exciting!) finding and banding an endangered Red-shouldered hawk. Every single day has been an adventure filled with learning opportunities - from trying to memorize various bird calls to working with power tools. The experience this internship has given me is absolutely invaluable to my future success. As I continue my studies in Zoology at Northern Michigan University, I hope to build upon the many skills I have garnered here. And of course, it goes without saying that this experience wouldn't have been half as wonderful had it not been for all the staff members at Woodland Dunes and my fellow interns!

Ari Zimney

Returning for a second year as an intern for Woodland Dunes has been a truly wonderful experience. Seeing the amazing staff and being able to work alongside motivated student interns has been a blessing. Similarly to last year, many of the interns and I have planted trees to help combat the destruction of our forests due to the Emerald Ash Borer. Additionally, we have been able to join Jim on bird counts, attend education programs put on by Jess and Sydney, and assist the DNR with goose banding programs. This year however, Jenna, another intern, and myself have been tasked with doing habitat restoration for an endangered bumble bee that has been recorded as being present on the preserve. This job has included cutting down and treating invasive honeysuckle, conducting bumble bee surveys, capturing pictures of these bumble bees, and then sending this information to the DNR for further data collection. Overall, getting this new experience has been helpful in assisting me focus my interests and turn them into potential career path ideas.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Woodland Dunes has continued to learn and adapt to Covid-19, always keeping the health and safety of its employees and visitors in mind. Programs will take place outdoors and we will continue to follow health guidelines, recommend masks for program participants and staff that are not vaccinated, practice good hand hygiene and physical distancing when possible. Registration is required for most programs as we will keep program sizes small. To register for a program call 793-4007 or email Jess at jessicaj@woodlanddunes.org. As needed, we will make adjustments to our program offerings and precautionary measures based on best practices.

Friday Morning Bird Walks

Fridays, September 3rd and 10th
8:30-9:45am
Donations appreciated

You are invited to join Woodland Dunes staff on a short bird walk. Meet at the Nature Center and bring your binoculars. Registration required. This is a weather dependent program. Sponsored by Next Era Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

Raising a Wild Child

Thursday, September 9th: Spiders
Thursday, October 14th: Fall Leaves
Thursday, November 11th: Seeds
Session 1: 9:00-10:15am
Session 2: 10:45am-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, program takes place outdoors. Registration required, space is limited in each session. Sponsored by the Edward Jones Office of Carla Liban.

Henry Wetland Opening

Saturday, September 11th
9:00-11:00am

Woodland Dunes, the Wisconsin DNR and Stantec have been working on 60 acres of farmland generously donated by the Henry family and restoring it to a wetland. The public is welcome to stop at the site anytime between 9:00 and 11:00am and talk with partners involved in the project and enjoy a short, guided walk. Park on E. Goodwin Road and cross Woodland Drive to meet program leaders. Registration not required. Sponsored by the Wisconsin DNR.

Fall Star Parties

Saturday, September 11th 8:30-9:30pm
Saturday, October 9th 8:00-9:00pm
Saturday, November 6th 7:00-8:00pm

View night sky constellations with astronomers Al and Ben, along with the moon and other celestial objects through the big telescope in the Sky Shed. Weather and sky conditions permitting, otherwise star parties will take place the following Saturday at the same time. Program takes place outside the Nature Center. Space is limited, registration required by the Wednesday before the program. Sponsored by Next Era Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

Enchanted Forest

Saturday, October 2nd
5:00-8:00pm
Members: \$5/person
Non-Members: \$6/person
Children 3 and under, free

Journey along a candlelit trail and meet some of Mother Nature's favorite (costumed) animals. Modifications have been made to make this an entirely outdoor event with surprises around every turn! This is an educational evening, not a scary one. Please wear costumes and warm clothes. Space is limited, groups sizes are kept small. Registration required and opens Sept 20th. Call or email to reserve a tour time soon - times fill quickly!

Fall Walk

Thursday, October 21st
9:00-10:00am
Members: \$4/person or \$10/family
Non-members: \$5/person or \$15/family



Experience the changes of the season as you enjoy a guided trail walk. Registration required by Monday, October 18th. Program is weather dependent. Sponsored by Next Era Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

Pollinator Garden on a Budget: Saving Seeds to Start Your Own

Tuesday, November 2nd
1:00-2:30pm

Collect seeds from native pollinator plants and take some home in a "mini greenhouse." Instruction and demonstration provided by the Master Gardener Volunteers of Manitowoc County. The entire program will take place outside, dress accordingly. Space is limited, registration required by Friday, October 29th.

Active Nest of State-threatened Bird Found at Woodland Dunes

By Nancy Nabak

The state-threatened Red-shouldered hawk has been nesting at Woodland Dunes for over 20 years. Until recently, our staff have not been able to locate a nest. Experts call them "phantoms of the forest" for a reason, but because of the hawk's behaviors and calling, they're known to be here.

Recently, our interns were planting trees in the Preserve and noticed copious bird droppings surrounding a tree. This caused them to look up, and directly above them was the Red-shouldered hawk nest.

"There comes a time in every aspiring biologist's life that leaves them speechless", said Jordan Troeger, summer intern. "A moment where their heart races, their brain halts, and the only thought they can formulate is 'Wow.' For me, it was finding the Red-shouldered hawk nest."

The interns have been planting trees in our 1,500-acre preserve to counter the die off that will occur due to the emerald ash borer. Jen Klein, Habitat Manager, has been spearheading a 4-year project to get 10,000 trees in place to protect our unique ridge and swale eco-system.

"At the beginning of the summer, we challenged the interns to find the nest because we had been hearing

the hawk calling all spring," Klein said. "It's incredible that one month later they actually did it."

With that challenge, the interns set out to learn more about the Red-shouldered hawk. They had been hearing a Barred owl, which they discovered, shares the same habitat with this type of hawk. They also found signs such as feathers at the base of the tree. To top it off, when they found the nest, they also saw a chick staring back at them.

Jim Knickelbine, Executive Director of Woodland Dunes, called in Red-shouldered hawk expert, John Jacobs. Jacobs captured the adult female hawk, banded her, and fitted her with a logger, a GPS device so her movements could be tracked.

Troeger said: "She was the most gorgeous bird I'd ever seen. I couldn't stop staring at her. Her sleek, strong body was brown and white, her feet and beak bright yellow. Her shoulders, named oh so well, were a stunning shade of orangey-red. Her eyes were fierce and wise; she was unlike anything I'd witnessed before."



Troeger also said this experience has made her more aware of her contributions to the decline of Red-shouldered hawk and other wildlife populations.

Logging, wetland-filling, and collisions are some of the greatest human-induced threats facing Red-shouldered hawks today.

Woodland Dunes is proud to be a safe home for this state-threatened species.



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

THANK YOU

Memorials/Honoraries

- In Memory of Donald Miller*
William & Traci Holtke
- In Memory of Mark & Agnes Pupeter*
Nicholas &
Kristen Bornemann
Todd Brandt
Melvin Hagedorn
Leland & Rosemary Heideman
RA Hoyt
Leeann & Keith Kappelman
Elizabeth & Thomas Schiman
Carol Wachholz
Sharon Wojta
Judy Wright
- In Memory of Theresa Cisler*
Herman Balaban
Susan Buck
Jackie Burkart
Thomas & Patricia Engel
- In Memory of Robert Becker*
Carol Martin
- In Memory of Marty Drury*
Helen Bleser
Terry Paulow & Patricia Hayes
- In Memory of Ken Baroun*
Charlene & Dale Bers
- In Memory Dr. John Larsen*
Irene Michael
- In Memory of Joanna Gregorski*
Frances Blatnik
Gerald & Joanne Champeau
Michael & Jenene Garey
Nancy Horvath
William & Nancy Jagemann
Ralph & June Kramer
Eileen & Lee Kummer
- In Memory of Roberta Ott*
Theresa Leiberg
Jayne Rulseh
Lucy Zeldenrust
- In Memory of Edward & Violet Pintok*
Michael Pintok & Cindy Lupin
- In Memory of William Webster*
Helen Bleser
- In Honor of Michael Pintok & Cindy Lupin*
Charles & Marilyn Sontag
- In Honor of Christian Copus*
Ricki Albright
- In Honor of Andy & Jenny Knickelbine*
James & Susan Knickelbine
- In Honor of Annette Henry*
Gerald & Patricia Henry
- In Memory of Allan P. Hubbard*
Isabel Hubbard

Donations

- Marjorie Berg
Ronald & Diane Budnik
David & Linda Gratz
Jane & Arthur Stangel Fund
James & Susan Knickelbine
Donald & Ellen Lewellen
Steven & Wendy Lutzke
James & Sylvia Miller

Building Addition Donations/Pledges

- Friends of the Branch River
Baycare Health Systems
Dolly McNulty
Donald Salmon

Butterfly Garden

Merrie Star

Trail Savers

Vickie Hang

Education Programs

- Woodland Dunes
Endowment Fund
Dolly McNulty
John Cashman & Mary Govier

Grants

In-Kind

- Cawley Company
Troy & Lynn Christiansen
Paul & Jennifer Klein
Seeds N Beans
Thrivent Financial



Land Management

Big things are happening in the preserve. This summer, our interns planted the last of 10,000 trees in our swales, ending a four-year project and fortifying 100 acres of woods. We still have 300 acres that need the same attention, but we can take a moment to feel good about our accomplishments so far. In fact, while the interns were planting, they were able to locate the nest of the state threatened Red-shouldered hawk, something staff has been trying to accomplish for decades.

We also had two interns removing invasive honeysuckle shrubs where the forest meets prairie. This is critical overwintering habitat for the federally endangered rusty-patched bumblebee. Removing these shrubs ensures a healthier, more successful habitat. While restoring habitat, our young scientists also conducted bee surveys and submitted photos to the Wisconsin Bumble Bee Brigade. This fall, some of our prairie fields will be mowed to boost the growth of our native wildflowers. All of these projects were funded by grants, both federal and private dollars, and wouldn't have been possible otherwise.

As we look to the future, we're working on grants for large projects such as: regional-scale habitat restoration and education, Forget Me Not Creek naturalization and re-meandering (based off a plan developed under a current grant), and more invasive species removal and tree planting for coastal forest sustainability. We are also looking at ways to strengthen our internship programs to allow for more research and learning opportunities.

These are huge undertakings that wouldn't be possible without our many wonderful volunteers and supporters. Thank you to all of you who've stuck with us and helped us navigate through changing guidelines. You are truly nature's heroes!

— Jeni Klein,
Land Management Coordinator



WE HAVE SWIFTS IN OUR CHIMNEY!

Photo by Nancy Nabak

When we remodeled our Nature Center, we also restored our brick chimney on the old house. This was done to ensure the swift has a place to nest and roost while here. Declining populations encourage us all to act on their behalf.

Here's some samples of tracking Chimney swift behavior in our own chimney at the Dunes, recorded by Jen Klein and Nancy Nabak.

5/17/21: They're back! The swifts have returned from South America!

7:57 a.m. Light chitters heard in chimney

3:39 p.m. Chittering again in the chimney

Chittering and twitters heard inside chimney from office space in old nature center building continues daily. Recorded as best as possible

5/27/21

8:20 a.m. Cold day, 44 degrees and cloudy. LOUD chitters

9:39 short bursts of chitters

10:32 "..."

11:27 "..."

11:38 "..."

11:46 "..."

12:11 "..."

1:17 p.m. "..."

1:47 p.m. "..."

Again, sounds were documented daily when heard in chimney

6/1/21

12:08 p.m. wing banging on the chimney pan, nest must be next to it.

12:12 wing banging

12:18 lots of chittering and activity, can hear them leaving chimney and flying low near nature center outside

12:29 flying low near building, lots of chittering

2:49 light chitters in chimney

2:56 chitters near building, low and close

3:17 light chitters in chimney

3:25 light chitters

Daily observances such as this continued to be recorded

7/6/21

8:21 pan banging, different sound like rattling. Small chitters lasting a bit longer. Rattling – food begging!

1:39 Thunderstorm - loud, quick chitters

1:49 Thunder – loud chitters

3:44 loud quick chitters, banging on pan again, some chitters sound "fluttery"

Many days following have similar activity with noticeable multiple visits, more frequent visits and food begging sounds (rattles), mixed with parent "chirps."

7/19/21

2:36 Loud chittering. First sound of swifts all day. No begging "rattles." Only chirping and sounds like only one bird.

7/21/21

No sound all day. Babies have fledged. Successful nesting season!

Photo: swifts in chimney at Woodland Dunes, 2020.



WOODLAND DUNES

NATURE CENTER & PRESERVE

PO Box 486 | Two Rivers, WI 54241-0486

WOODLAND DUNES NATURE CENTER

Become a member or give a gift membership!

Headquarters & Nature Shop

Hwy 310 West of Two Rivers

Hours

Monday - Friday: 9 am - 4 pm
Saturday: 9 am - 12 pm (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!

Staff

<i>Executive Director</i>	Jim Knickelbine
<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>Assistant Naturalist</i>	Kennedy Zittel
<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Jenifer Thompson
<i>Environmental Educator/ Butterfly Garden Coordinator</i>	Wendy Lutzke

Board of Directors

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Tom Kocourek

Vice Chairman
Bruce Robinson

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Troy Christiansen

Secretary
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Jon Henry
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Ellen Lewellen
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Kelly Vorrone
Lucy Zeldenrust

Name _____
Address _____
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State _____ Zip _____
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Email _____

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | Individual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 | Family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | Patron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | Contributor |

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

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