

DUNESLETTER

Spring 2022 | Volume 187

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FROM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

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As I am writing this, the sun is shining, the ground is bare and the temperature is 32 degrees. Although it is still early February, today is a preview of the coming spring season.

The chickadees and cardinals have been singing their breeding calls for several days, offering

another glimpse of what's to come. I sure crave those spring mornings when the preserve is an orchestra of bird calls and feathery pops of color catch my eye. I invite you to also enjoy the return of the spring birds and take part in one of the Saturday morning bird walks or our annual Bird Breakfast and Migration Celebration.

This mild weather also reminds me that the preserve will soon be full of inquisitive school children who will take full advantage of the spring mud puddles on the trails. During their visit they will experience the special nuances of spring: tasting sap dripping out of a maple tree, hearing

the deafening sound of hundreds of wood frogs singing in the swales, smelling the earthy-wet forest air, and other natural wonders that cannot be taught in a classroom.

Spring is a fresh chapter and there are many

exciting seeds starting to grow at the Nature Center. New education signs were installed in the main hall and another MOTUS station will be established to continue to track birds. We are also cultivating larger projects that we hope will soon germinate. One includes adding solar panels on the new addition, which will further reduce our carbon footprint and offer

new educational opportunities. Another involves repairing large sections of a boardwalk trail in our preserve.

Spring is a time of renewal and I hope you embrace the season.

~ Jessica Johnsrud, Assistant Director

Spark Bird!

We asked readers to send us a note on what bird they considered their "spark bird." The bird that got them interested in birding or bird watching. Here is what one reader had to say:

"The bird that first inspired me to crack open a field guide was the Caspian Tern. Its aerodynamic form and headlong dives into Lake Michigan sparked my curiosity and led me to wonder which other birds I might find in Wisconsin.

In honor of the Caspian Tern, I've made a donation to the Bird Protection Fund, via the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Partnership." Rebecca Jabs

Thank you, Rebecca, and keep enjoying our beautiful birds!

Want to share your Spark Bird story with us? Send a few lines to: nancyn@woodlanddune.org and we'll share your story with others in our next issue!

Caspian Tern Photo by The Cornell Labs www.allaboutbirds.org



Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances and Covid-19 restrictions, our traditional Dash At the Dunes will not take place this April. We know, this is a bummer. However! We're going to Smash the Dash this year! We're taking everything traditional about the 5K race and smashing it!

APRIL 15 - 23

FROM WHERE YOU ARE, YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN ONE OR MORE OF THESE FUN EVENTS:

- 5K walk/run 10K walk/run
- § 5k bike
 § 10K bike
- © Competitive Time Smasher
- Spring Fever Scavenger Hunt
- Alumni T-shirt Smasher
- Supplies to the supplies of Home Town Proud Smasher

\$25/PERSON \$10 FOR CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER



Your registration will make a difference in our conservation efforts and help thousands of children learn the valuable lessons of nature in our outdoor classroom.



HOW IT WORKS: Register for the 5k, 10k, or bike event as you normally would. Go out, track your time, and send your results back to us. New! Sign up to be a Competitive Time Smasher! Compete against your time from last year and send us your results! We'll publish your best time and name in our newsletter. The participant with the most time shaved will win a Woodland Dunes water bottle and free registration for next year's event.

OR: Participate in our Spring Fever Scavenger Hunt and be put into a drawing to win a Woodland Dunes T-shirt and water bottle! Five winners will be drawn! Go ahead! Be a kid! Have fun with this! Visit our website for hunt details.

> **AND:** Alumni T-shirt Smasher: Wear one of our previous Dash T-shirts while you're out doing your event. Take a selfie and send it back to us to be put in the Alumni Drawing. Win a Woodland Dunes ball cap and hiking medallion!

AND: Long Distance/ Home Town Proud Smasher: Smashers from afar, make a sign with your hometown on it, take a selfie of it in front of you, send it back to us and be put in the Long Distance Drawing. Win a Woodland Dunes T-shirt and a cool Two Rivers, WI ball cap!

Register here: runsignup.com/Race/WI/TwoRivers/DashattheDunes Mail all selfies to: nancyn@woodlanddunes.org. Watch for your photos in our next Dunesletter and Facebook

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!















LAKESIDE FOODS

SPOTLIGHT **Bob Randerson**

How long have you volunteered at Woodland Dunes and what made you become involved?

My first involvement with Woodland Dunes was as a deer hunter - beginning the first year a hunt was conducted (1978?), through about 1989. My first volunteer experience was as a member of the "Night Gang" (with my wife Shelly) where our job was to check the nets during the Saw-whet owl migration. In recent years (since retiring), I've helped as a TN (Teacher-Naturalist) which has been incredibly rewarding, working with young people. I've also been involved in boardwalk construction, tree planting and invasive eradication. Jessica has also been kind enough to keep me busy by giving me a couple of woodworking projects – thanks, Jess!

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

I love the outdoors so Woodland Dunes is a natural fit. If I were a casual visitor to Woodland Dunes, hiking the trails occasionally and maybe visiting the nature center would be fantastic in itself. Having had the opportunities to add to this, the hands-on experiences, adds so much to my life through teaching and sharing, and knowing a thankfulness in being entrusted as stewards of this beautiful world. It lends to a sense of giving back for all I've been given to enjoy.

What are some of your favorite pastimes or hobbies?

VOLUNTEER

My most recent favorite hobbies are retirement, and Grandsons (3). Again, outdoors is where I love to be, so fishing, hunting, camping, foraging hiking, biking, and canoeing. Not that I need more hobbies, but since teaching youth during the Maple Syrup program here, I was inspired to try it in my own backyard with success! I also enjoy photography, bird/wildlife watching, music and woodworking. I recently built my first banjo which is my most ambitious project to date

and enjoy playing a bit.

Words of wisdom for other volunteers?

We live in such an amazing area for enjoying the outdoors and nature, between Woodland Dunes and Point Beach State Forest. If one likes the outdoors there are so many opportunities for learning and teaching. The staff and volunteers are here for the same reasons I am - because they love what they do which makes it not a job, but a following of a passion for the outdoors. If you also have this passion give volunteering a try. The people are all great to work with and you can pick your favorite area of interest, birding/teaching/gardening... you name it! Woodland Dunes is definitely one of my "Happy Places!"

WSO Convention Update

Unfortunately, the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology (WSO)



Convention, slated to take place in Two Rivers this year has been cancelled again. The WSO board felt it was best to keep all of its members safe until Covid-19 is not the threat it is today. Instead, they are planning for a possible Big Day event in May. Be watching future communications for updates on this.



Woodland Dunes received 100 out of 100 points on the Finance and Accountability Report on the Charity Navigator site. You bet we did! We're putting your generous contributions right where you want them!





Herbarium Collection Housed at the Dunes

By Kennedy Zittel, Assistant Naturalist

One year ago, Woodland Dunes received an exciting inquiry asking if we would like to take the herbarium collection that was housed at Silver Lake College (Holy Family College) due to its closing. Upon hearing that much of it was collected in Manitowoc County, we were more than happy to drive to the campus and were shown to a room labeled, "Sister Teresita Kittell's Herbarium." There sat 25 boxes filled to the brim with plant specimens that we immediately packed into Jim's car and headed back to the nature center where I began to catalog the boxes' contents.

We knew that a majority was collected in the mid-1900s by the Sisters. What we did not expect though, was that the rest of the collection were plant specimens from around the world dating back to the mid-1800s. The oldest specimen so far has been from 1862. How amazing is that? In addition to the plants being older than we thought and from all around the world, some of the collectors were famous botanists. To name a few:

Rebecca Merritt Austin (1832-1919). One of the first female naturalists and one of the first people to study carnivorous plants, such as the pitcher plant. She also corresponded with Asa Gray and Charles Darwin.

Alice Eastwood (1859-1953). A botanist accredited with building the botanical collection at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. She also published over 310 scientific articles and authored 395 plant species names (the fourth-highest number of names authored by a female scientist).

Percy Gentle (1890-1958). The Queen's Botanical Garden describes Percy as being one of the first African-American plant collectors/botanists of the Americas. He was one of the first native Belizean natural scientists and collected nearly 10,000 plants which were critical in understanding the flora of Belize.

S. F. Blake (Sidney Fay Blake) (1892-1959). Recognized as one of the world's experts on botanical nomenclature. He was also named one of the 50 greatest living botanists in America by the Botanical Society of America in 1956.

Like other herbariums, this collection is incredibly important. These specimens are historical records that cannot be replaced, which is why cataloging these specimens is so important. There is currently no digital or written record of the specimens within this collection and due to their age, handling them often would degrade the quality. By entering them into a database, anyone from around the world can look at them. Herbarium collections can tell us what plants were growing in specific areas during specific times, which is what Woodland Dunes is very excited to explore. This information can show us what plants used to be here and compare that to what plants are here now to help with restoration efforts on the preserve.

I am overjoyed to know that the work that we are doing ensures that the work that Sister Teresita and the other Sisters did in collecting and preserving this collection does not go unnoticed. In addition, we hope these specimens can be viewed for future research and education.

We have had very little funds to work on this project; however, we are currently looking for grants, donations, and additional funding sources for covering the costs of cataloging and maintaining the collection for years to come. There are many more boxes to go through, but I am excited to see what other surprises are awaiting for us to discover.



By Nancy Nabak

When it's time to head into the beautiful outdoors for a silent adventure, things might seem quiet and calm externally, but internally, this is where many of us get excited.

Silent sports are non-motorized activities such as hiking, biking, kayaking, and beachcombing. It's a way for you to get out of the fast-paced buzz and celebrate silence. It's slowly taking in the wondrous sights, sounds, and possibly even the smells around you. A silent sport, by nature, creates a very small footprint on our environment.

While thinking about what silent sports could be experienced right here from Woodland Dunes, I came up with quite a list of possibilities.

- Kayaking a launch at the end of the Cattail trail boardwalk goes into the West Twin River. Kayak caddies are available for rent, no fee, just a credit card or driver's license until the caddy is returned.
- Birding there are 7 miles of hiking trails and various habitats in order to find warblers, marsh birds, raptor species, waterfowl, and more.
 We are designated as an Important Bird Area.
- Hiking the terrain for the most part is flat and easy to hike. You will experience a variety of plant, fungi, and wildlife while on the trails from sunrise to sunset each day at no cost.
- Star gazing open spaces offer amazing star gazing opportunities when "Star Parties" are offered on the weekends. (Go to the Dunes calendar on website for events).

- Wildlife viewing numerous mammals, amphibians, birds, and insects call the Dunes home. Mink, fox, otter, frogs, toads, butterflies, bees, and bird species in the hundreds can be viewed and photographed from the butterfly garden or on the trails.
- Picnicking an outdoor pavilion with picnic tables is right next to the butterfly garden and near the tall observation tower. Enjoy a picnic lunch and slow down your day.
- Relaxing cop a squat on some grass or bring your own lawn chair. Unwind behind the Nature Center while overlooking David's Pond. Bring a book and just chill for a while.

There are many opportunities for more silent sports nearby. There's camping at Point Beach State Park, biking on Mariner's Trail & Rawley Point Recreational Trail. Swimming is available at Neshotah Beach, along with sail boating and beach glass collecting.

While here, please make sure you visit these natural spaces that offer you something out of the ordinary. A study published in 2019 indicated that people are happier when they are in green spaces and particularly when they are in larger, greener, tree-filled areas. In fact, their positivity level increased to that documented on Christmas day. So come spend some quiet time with us and let nature be your gift every day!

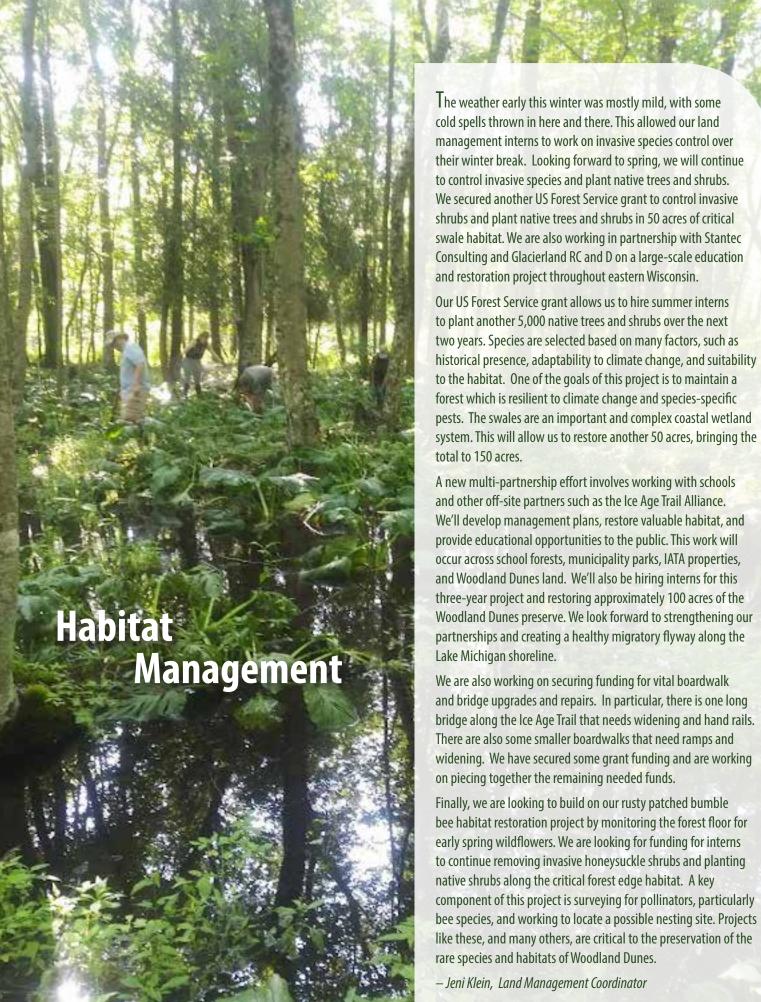


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"If you are a fan of Mother Nature you will find kindred spirits here; and you just might find a friend for life, a wonderful place. If you find yourself in Two Rivers (if you want to blend with locals say "Trivers"), I highly recommend that you spend some time at the **Dunes. You WILL enjoy** your time there. Did I mention it's free; but leave a small donation to help keep it going. Hoka hey! This is still my favorite place to hike."

~ Stephen Miller

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THANK YOU

Memoriams/Honoriams

In Memory of Cynthia Bayless Rosemarie Bugs Cindy Lupin & Michael Pintok Charles & Marilyn Sontag Joel & Patti Trick

In Memory of Catherine Bleser Jeff & Tina Kvitek

In Memory of David Budysz **Zipperer Family**

In Memory of Dr. Robert & Lois Bush Jeffrey & Julie Rathmanner

In Memory of Joseph Brisch Mona Moen

In Memory of Robert Cichantek Helen Cichantek

In Memory of Walter Fink Elizabeth Fink

In Memory of Joanna Gregorski Judith Bull

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In Memory of Kathryn Herman Mona Moen

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Dennis & Mary Swoboda Michael & Debra Timm Melissa Vallesky

In Memory of Gary Krajnik Charles & Marilyn Sontag Bonnita Budysz & Robert Theaker

In Memory of Don Massey Gary & Susan Nickel

In Memory of Richard Sell Nancy Jagemann

In Honor of Cindy Lupin & Michael Pintok Mark Luker

In Honor of the Class of 1959 Ginger Baryenbruch

In Honor of Donald Salmon & Maria Zehren Charles & Marilyn Sontag

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Nancy Barker Seeds N Beans Kristine Brickner Lauren Her Bonnie O'Leske

Fund Drive

Judith Bull David & Susan Hilke Andrew & Laurie Paulin Philip & Margaret Rees Mark & Jean Stecker



and Woodland Dunes land. We'll also be hiring interns for this three-year project and restoring approximately 100 acres of the Woodland Dunes preserve. We look forward to strengthening our partnerships and creating a healthy migratory flyway along the Lake Michigan shoreline. We are also working on securing funding for vital boardwalk

and bridge upgrades and repairs. In particular, there is one long bridge along the Ice Age Trail that needs widening and hand rails. There are also some smaller boardwalks that need ramps and widening. We have secured some grant funding and are working on piecing together the remaining needed funds.

Finally, we are looking to build on our rusty patched bumble bee habitat restoration project by monitoring the forest floor for early spring wildflowers. We are looking for funding for interns to continue removing invasive honeysuckle shrubs and planting native shrubs along the critical forest edge habitat. A key component of this project is surveying for pollinators, particularly bee species, and working to locate a possible nesting site. Projects like these, and many others, are critical to the preservation of the rare species and habitats of Woodland Dunes.

- Jeni Klein, Land Management Coordinator

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. Currently, masks are recommended inside and required during education programs when physical distancing is not possible. Registration is required for all programs as we will keep program sizes small. To register for a program, call 793-4007 or email Jess at jessicaj@woodlanddunes.org.

Raising a Wild Child

Thursday, March 10th: Maple Syrup Thursday, April 14th: Woodpeckers Thursday, May 12th: Salamanders 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, entire program takes place outdoors. Registration required, space is limited in each session. Sponsored by the Edward Jones Office of Carla Liban.

Early Spring Hike

Wednesday, March 30th | 1:00-2:00pm

Stroll along one of the trails with a staff member to look for early signs of spring such as skunk cabbage, wood frogs and snow fleas. We will hike one of the trails at the end of Goodwin Rd, exact trail to be determined closer to the date of the hike. Program is weather dependent, registration required by Mon, March 28th. Sponsored by The Winston Group.

Midwest Annual Crane Count

Saturday, April 9th 5:30-7:30am

Only a few Sandhill Cranes were left in Wisconsin in the 1930's, but due to protection, their population now exceeds 10,000. Each year, volunteers visit designated sites in Manitowoc County to count courting sandhills in a coordinated effort. If you would like to help, or join a seasoned crane counter to learn the technique, contact Jeni at jenniferp@ woodlanddunes.org for more information.

Timberdoodle Observation & Star Party

Thursday, April 14th | 7:45-9:30pm Members: \$4; \$10 family Non-members: \$5; \$15 family

Search for the sky-dancing American Woodcock and witness its elaborate courtship displays. After, look at stars, constellations and more through the telescope. Space is limited, registration required by Monday, April 11th. Program is weather dependent. Sponsored by The Winston Group.

Twilight Spring Immersion Walk

Monday, May 2nd | 8:00pm Members: \$4/person Non-Members: \$5/person

Connect with nature and focus on the present on this guided twilight walk. As we slowly walk in silence, immerse yourself and experience the sounds, sights and smells of the spring evening. Meet at the end of E. Goodwin Rd off Woodland Dr. Trail may be muddy, wear boots. Program is weather dependent, registration required by Friday, April 29th.

Spring Migration Walks

Saturday, May 7th, 8:00am: Cattail Trail Saturday, May 14th, 8:00am: Willow Trail Saturday, May 21st, 7:00am: End of Goodwin Rd Saturday, May, 28th, 7:00am: Cattail Trail

Join local birder, Joel Trick, for a guided bird walk along the trails at Woodland Dunes. Look and listen for migrants and resident birds during the spring migration. Registration required, space is limited. Bring your binoculars and boots as some trails can may be muddy and meet at the trailhead listed. Walks will last at least one hour, but may be longer if the birding is good. All sessions are weather dependent.

Macro/Up Close Photography **Class for Beginners**

Monday, May 16th (rain date, Monday, May 23rd) Session 1: Noon-3:00pm Session 2: 5:00-8:00pm \$10 for members \$15 for non-members

Macro/up close photography is seeing our world as a scene within a scene. This will be a photography class to introduce the macro world. No experience necessary. Appropriate for phones, macro lens or any lens that can zoom in. Get ready to spend 3 hours discovering the little things that plants, insects, amphibians have to offer as spring unthaws their world. This program will take place outdoors and will be led by nature lover and Woodland Dunes volunteer, Lynn Rennert. Lynn is self-taught and learned through trial and error. Registration is required by Thursday, May 12th, space is limited in each session. Sponsored by The Winston Group.

Bird Breakfast & Migration Celebration



Saturday, May 21st 8:00-11:00am

Celebrate spring and the return of many of our migratory songbirds! Bird Breakfast Guided bird hikes will be

available throughout the morning (registration required) and self-quided activities for families will be set up outside on the grounds near the Nature Center. We will also be offering a delicious ham and pancake breakfast. Reservations and details about the breakfast and guided bird hikes will be available Monday, May 2nd.

Spring Star Party

Saturday, May 21st 9:30-10:30pm

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. Bring a lawn chair and your own telescope if you wish. Weather and sky conditions permitting. Program takes place outside the Nature Center. Sponsored by The Winston Group.

Virtual Adult Learning Opportunities

We are offering virtual programs this spring as part of our adult learning series 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. Please note registration deadline for each program. You will receive an email with directions and a link to the presentation. Contact Jess with any questions. Sponsored by The Winston Group.

Wisconsin's Wild Lakes

Tuesday, March 22nd | 6:30pm

Of Wisconsin's over 15,000 lakes, very few wild lakes remain. These are rare places where remarkable peace and beauty abounds, and where native wildlife flourishes. Wisconsin only has around 135 undeveloped, publicly-owned wild lakes over 30 acres. Where are they, and more importantly, why should we care about protecting wild places? This presentation, led by Wisconsin Naturalist John Bates, will spotlight a few of these lakes and the many values each offers scientifically, recreationally, aesthetically, emotionally, and

Wisconsin's Trailblazing **Women of Conservation**

6:00pm Many Wisconsin women have made important contributions to conservation

through scientific discoveries.

Tuesday, April 12th

sharing their knowledge and advocating for the environment. Join 2022 Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Inductee, Kathleen Falk, to learn more about these trailblazing women. Registration required by Monday, April 11th.

SAVE*THE*DATE Be a Nature Princess ...At Any Age!

Saturday, June 4th 9:00am-11:30am | \$5/child

This program is inspired by the children's book, "Do Princesses Wear Hiking Boots?" and is destined to be a royally good time! Daughters, grandmothers, aunts, nieces and other royal descendants are invited to share in the fun of making nature crowns, using dip nets to discover what lives in the water and hiking along the Ice Age Trail. Princess attire that can get dirty and rain boots are highly encouraged! Space is limited, registration required (through Woodland Dunes) and opens May 1st. This program is a partnership between Woodland Dunes and the Ice Age Trail Alliance.







PO Box 486 | Two Rivers, WI 54241-0486

WOODLAND DUNES NATURE CENTER

Headquarters & Nature Shop Board of Directors

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

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Butterfly Garden Coordinator

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