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Thank You

FROM THE DIRECTOR

We are happily anticipating a busy summer at Woodland Dunes. Many important projects will occur: a new expansion to our solar photovoltaic system, a new Motus wildlife monitoring station, and many education programs and habitat restoration projects. We also anticipate increased visitation from friends like you.

A big part of our summer will be involved with major grant projects. We will again be planting 2,500 potted trees in the preserve - all averaging up to eight feet tall. This activity, unfortunately, has become more urgent with the confirmed presence of emerald ash borer.

We knew these invasive insects were here, but we are now seeing obvious signs of impacted trees. Thankfully, all of our trees are not ash - there are many alders, red maples, beech, white and yellow birch, white pine, hemlock, white cedar, and others. It will still be sad to see the ash trees die, but in the history of our forest this is just a moment in time. Eventually the ash borers will become naturalized and ash trees will find a way to survive, in thousands of years.

In the meantime, we have a good crew of interns

and amazing volunteers helping with the planting. Many of the 10,000 trees planted in the last four years are doing well, too. The ecology of our preserve will have to adjust to a new world, and it's our goal to make that adjustment less painful for the plants and animals we care for. We will not be cutting trees unless they pose a hazard

to people. The ash will be allowed to die, continuing to provide homes for wildlife and fungi as they eventually fall and decompose (perhaps recompose is a better term).

This year, funded by grants and donations, we will have eight summer interns. They will restore forest habitat by removing invasive shrubs

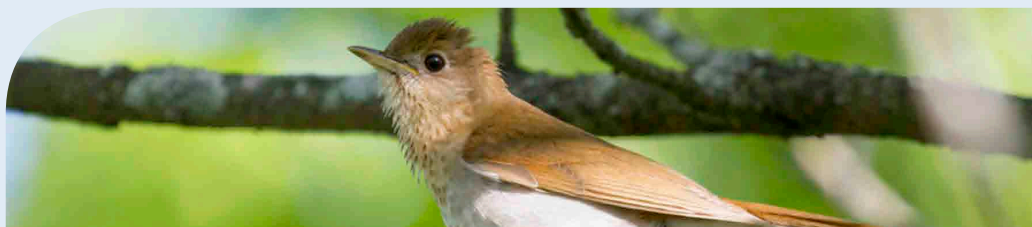
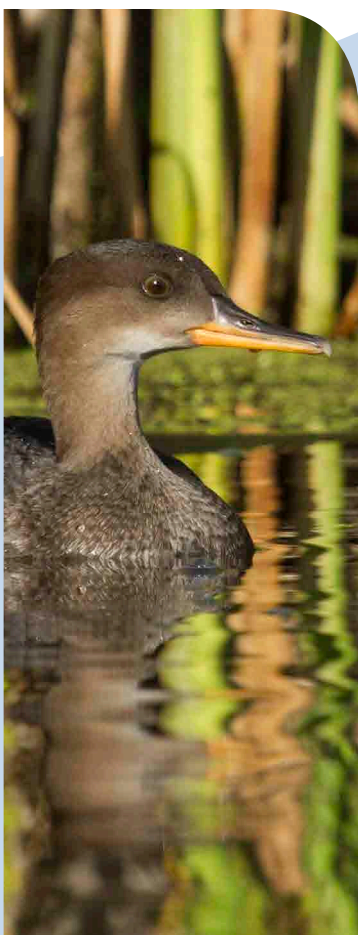
and planting native trees and shrubs. Others will improve pollinator habitat. Another will help with our summer education programs. We will more than double our staff size, but it is a pleasure to have these young people join us- we always learn from them.

We'll have a lot to report later this year, but in the meantime, please come out and enjoy our nature preserve and commune with wildlife. It will be good for you.

~ Jim Knickelbine, Executive Director



The ecology of our preserve will have to adjust to a new world.



Tropical Chill Raises Over \$41,000



With dedication, creativity, and amazing support from the community, Woodland Dunes raised over \$41,000 to support nature-based education and habitat conservation efforts during our Tropical Chill this February.

One of our big hits was the Traveling Pineapple Raffle. Instead of gathering 200 people together, we brought the event to our supporters. We offered a raffle where real pineapples were delivered to anyone who wished to participate – attaching their ticket stub to the pineapple.

Winners of the raffle were: Barb Baldwin (3-piece blue topaz jewelry set) and Tom Erdman (gas grill with meat, cheese and beer).



Our supporters were also invited to participate in an online auction, a wine pull, and the opportunity to donate by “not” attending a live event.

We were excited to receive support from as far away as Michigan, Illinois, North Carolina and Florida.

Dedicated members of the planning committee included: Kay Baum, Lynn Burzynski, Doug DeVries, Judy Goodchild, Ellen Wellen, Wendy Lutzke, Alison Petri and Jason Ring. Thank you! We couldn't have done it without you!

Woodland Dunes would also like to thank this year's generous sponsors: 103.1 WOGB Radio, Bank First, Hamann Construction Company, Nicolet National Bank, UW-Green Bay, Dalebroux Jewelry, Steimle Birschbach Attorneys, LLC., Village Inn on the Lake, Edward Jones, Starfish Graphics and Fricke Printing.



UW-Green Bay and Woodland Dunes, A Sustainable Partnership

By Nancy Nabak, Communication Coordinator

When I heard Dr. Michael Alexander, chancellor of UW-Green Bay, speak at a Two Rivers Business Association meeting recently, that's all it took for me to follow his direction. He's got passion and he's fired up for the future.

The best part? He sees a positive one for us, our economy, and our natural resources. Thankfully, the two of us (Woodland Dunes and UW-Green Bay), have similar missions in mind. It's fitting that an organization such as ours with a dual purpose: to preserve our habitat and to educate the public on the importance of nature, would fall in line with the mission of Eco U.

If you are not familiar with Eco U, here is a little history from Chancellor Alexander.

"From its inception in 1965, UW-Green Bay was envisioned as a university that would be focused on environmental work. The initial curriculum required interdisciplinary degrees with the idea that sustainability and the environment would be a key part of the curriculum across all majors. In 1971, Harper's and Newsweek both wrote about the importance of having a university dedicated to the study of the issues surrounding the sustainability of the environment. Newsweek named UW-Green Bay, "Ecology U," which was eventually shortened to Eco U. Despite many changes, the spirit of Eco U has remained a key part of UW-Green Bay's identity since 1971."

What inspired me while listening to the chancellor speak was his enthusiasm for making positive change for our natural resources on the Green Bay, the lakeshore, and in Manitowoc County. *"We are fortunate to be next to the largest freshwater estuary in the world (Green Bay) and seek to be a leader in sustaining the abundant natural resources that surround our campuses."*

UW-Green Bay student enrollment is on the climb and at least part of this can be attributed to the fact that sustainability and environmental science courses are increasing in demand. In 2021, the UW-Green Bay system experienced a total enrollment growth of 9%, making the University the fastest-growing UW

school for the second consecutive year. (Gains for each campus: Sheboygan - 9%, Manitowoc - 19%, Green Bay - 9%, and Marinette - 12%.) Rebecca Abler, board member of Woodland Dunes, and professor of Water Science at the Manitowoc campus, stated that Environmental Science students can complete their major through a blend of face-to-face courses, online/hybrid courses, and the option to take courses on the Green Bay campus. Students can also get involved with research that will have significant impacts in our local region. *"Our research focuses on analyzing the status of water quality in Lake Michigan tributaries in Manitowoc County (5 southern creeks and the Little Manitowoc River).*



We are particularly interested in the impact of restoration activities, land use, and rain events on nutrient pollution." Abler said they've been working on this program rollout at the Manitowoc campus for the past two to three years and are planning to offer more face-to-face courses, such as Ecology, beginning in the Fall of 2022.

With climate change concerns on the rise and the need for valuable research to map out solutions, academics will continue to play an important role in how we unveil our future. To address this, Chancellor Alexander has an impressive vision of offering our students solid instruction while working with business leaders to help create sustainable campus communities. In achieving this, students will have stronger career opportunities in front of them when they graduate with a goal of working and staying locally - being positive contributors to our culture, economy, and society.

But prior to graduation, where do students get their hands on experience? This is where

Woodland Dunes comes in. Woodland Dunes has employed summer interns from UW-Green Bay for decades and the match has been beneficial for both entities. This year, Woodland Dunes will be hiring three interns from the UW-Green Bay system: Nadia Neziri, Grace Schumacher, and Andrea Auel. Their areas of focus will be on the planting of 2,500 trees, removing invasive species, and creating suitable habitat for the endangered rusty patch bumblebee (which has been found on our Preserve) and other pollinators.

Former intern, Kennedy Zittel, a 2020 Environmental Science and Geoscience graduate of UW-Green Bay, is now the Assistant Naturalist here. It's rare that an internship turns in to fulltime employment for Woodland Dunes, but Kennedy was a natural fit to the Dunes' mission and was offered a position after receiving her degree. *"It was because of the professors at UW-GB and the offered courses,"* said Zittel, *"that I was able to learn about the field that I am working in."* Zittel said she is truly grateful for the support that she continues to receive from UW-Green Bay beyond her graduation.

Successful UW-Green Bay graduates have garnered careers with agencies such as: MN/WI Ecological Services Field Office of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Glacierland Resource Conservation and Development, The Nature Conservancy, and FEMA.

Several Woodland Dunes board members are also affiliated with UW-Green Bay: Dolly McNulty, Susan Knorr, Rebecca Abler, and Chuck Sontag, former Professor of Biological Sciences at the UW- Manitowoc campus. And where art meets science, board member, Lucy Zeldenrust, is one of the founding members of the UW-Manitowoc Lakeshore Wind Ensemble.

We are very excited about the sustainable vision of Eco-U. We're enthused about our shared mission and the continuation of shared opportunities. Together, we celebrate the balance we can create for human enjoyment, our economy, and our environment.





VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Jean Lockington

My name is Jean Lockington and I've been volunteering at Woodland Dunes for about a year. A friend of mine, Debbie Timm, who also volunteers here, suggested that I apply. I had been retired from teaching for about eight years. That, and the pandemic, had me looking for something to do to contribute to the community.

I really look forward to coming to the Dunes every week. The building is so beautiful and welcoming, as are the people who work here. It's a lot of fun for me to meet guests from all over who come to see this facility. I love the fact that I learn from everyone I meet here, but especially the knowledgeable staff. I feel good about supporting an organization whose mission is to preserve and protect wildlife, a real asset to the community here in Two Rivers.

As far as hobbies go, I love being outside whether it's gardening, working in the yard, reading, walking, skiing, or going to the beach. I also do yoga and CrossFit. I like to travel in non-pandemic times, especially to see our daughter, Elyssa, our son-in-law Aaron, our grandson in Charlotte, and our son Patrick in Denver. We are looking forward to heading back to New Zealand, my husband Bob's home, once the pandemic subsides.

To anyone who is considering volunteering at Woodland Dunes, I would encourage you to come check out the beautiful Center and grounds. It's a good reason to stop in and visit!



Meet Sue Crowley

Greetings to Woodland Dunes members and beyond. I am extremely excited to be part of this amazing organization in the capacity of land management coordinator. I have been involved with Woodland Dunes since about 2005, when as the Manitowoc County DNR Forester, I assisted with a tree identification hike with Kelly Eskew Vorrone. Since then, I have had several opportunities to provide educational hikes or presentations, and I served as a board member for about four years.

My path to forestry and the love of nature started a bit later in life. It wasn't until I spent a summer in southern Washington state hiking the trails around the Willamette River, did I decide to pursue studies in forestry. Once you find that passion, that sweet spot, school becomes so much fun. I am a Badger graduate (UW-Madison) in Forestry and Soil Science. Most of my career has been with WI DNR, which provided me with a wealth of training regarding both forestry and people.

In my first official job out of school, I was fortunate to spend time as a project forester working for Menominee Tribal Enterprises. The group of foresters that I spent the year with and I still reminisce about that experience as one of the best of our lives. Why, you may ask, because we worked in well-cared for forests and we were *not in the office very often*. We learned how to navigate the big woods, identify plants, measure trees, identify insects, fungi, and tree diseases, get trucks stuck and unstuck, safely operate chainsaws, and of course, to know when to ask for help. We learned how to read the woods.

I am thrilled and honored to spend as much time as possible learning the land of Woodland Dunes more intimately - enjoying the insightful nature-based knowledge and musings shared amongst staff, volunteers and visitors alike. I enjoy being part of the boots-on-the ground—yes out on the ridges, the swales, the prairies and the wetlands—helping to maintain, preserve, and enhance the unique area that is Woodland Dunes Nature Center and Preserve. See you out there!



Stories from the Herbarium: Alice Eastwood

(January 19, 1859 - October 30, 1953)

By Kennedy Zittel, Assistant Naturalist

Alice Eastwood collected plants during frontier times, and even though she was told that it was too dangerous for a woman, she would often go out alone for days at a time to collect and explore. During this time there were very few roads making a lot of areas inaccessible, but that didn't stop Alice. She learned to ride a horse so she could collect plants in those hard-to-reach areas, and by doing so she ended up discovering many new plant species.

Alice was hired by the California Academy of Science to be an assistant in the herbarium and was eventually promoted to procurator. Going against common herbarium conventions of the time, Alice separated type specimens from the main collection - this proved to be an excellent decision later on.

On April 18th, 1906, the great San Francisco earthquake shook the city. The Academy buildings began to crumble and fire swept through the science building. Alice ran up the crumbling marble staircase as the fire began to consume the science building, but thanks to her previous sorting style, Alice was able to find and reach the rare and priceless specimens within the herbarium. Using an improvised rope, she lowered the specimens down to safety. Alice retrieved 1,211 plant specimens of immense value along with books from other departments and unbroken records dating back to the first Academy meeting. She said of the experience "Not a book from my department was I able to save, nor a single thing of my own, except my favorite lens, without which I should feel helpless... My own destroyed work I do not lament, for it was a joy to me while I did it, and I can still have that same joy in starting again".

A new herbarium was built, and Alice set off to collect plants to replace those that were lost. By keeping the first specimen and trading duplicates with other herbaria she was able to rebuild the Academy's collection and by 1942 she built the collection to around one-third of a million specimen, nearly three times what was lost in 1906!

Alice was also a fierce conservationist, working to save redwood forests and other areas in California. During a meeting to save what was then called Redwood Creek Canyon (now Muir Woods National Monument and Mt. Tamalpais State Park), Alice spoke passionately about protecting the ecologically important landscape. She said "There is only one reason why I wish I had \$1,000,000. The only thing I want that amount of money for is to buy Redwood Park and Mount Tamalpais and present them to the state of California for a public reserve." Her speech was said to have inspired the crowd and brought support towards the preservation of that area.

Alice's passion for the environment and willingness to take a stand for what she believed in allowed her to make a huge impact in the botany world and the preservation of California's redwood forests alike.

Testimonial

Good morning, Mr. Knickelbine:

I'm writing to share about an outstanding experience my brother Steve and I had this past Saturday, April 23rd while at Woodland Dunes, thanks to one of your volunteers, Debbie.

We were visiting Two Rivers for the weekend and were intrigued by your Nature Center so decided to stop in late Saturday morning, approximately 11am. We were immediately greeted by a wonderful person who identified herself as Debbie, a volunteer. Not only was she very friendly and pleasant as she showed us around and provided us a wealth of information about the Center and the surrounding area, but as our conversation flowed well, she also shared quite a bit about the history of Two Rivers and her unique perspective from growing up in that area. We were entranced! She was so informative and has a natural gift for people and bringing out their curiosity and interest. Before we knew it, it was nearly time for the Center to close for the day, so we thanked Debbie for her time and proceeded to explore the Center's outside offerings.

I'm sure you have received many compliments about the Center and its facilities, surrounding area, and perhaps your mission as well, but Steve and I wanted to make sure this fine person and wonderful volunteer was given some recognition for her excellent work, too.

Please pass along our thoughts and sentiments to Debbie if you would be so kind. It is people like her who are friendly, open, and project a true joy about their work that really make a difference in the lives of others, largely by just being themselves!

Thank you for this opportunity to share.

Kind regards,

John Dorosz, Hartford, WI area
Steve Dorosz, Green Bay, WI area



IT WAS A SMASH HIT!

In one April week, 100 Smashers got out into the fresh spring air and walked, hiked, ran, biked, and "hunted" their way into raising over \$5,500 for nature-based education programs for Woodland Dunes.

Nobody could say it better than Smasher, Angie Cerkas: "We had a blast doing this together. We even ended it with snacks just like the real Dash. So happy we could support our favorite Nature Center

We look forward to being together in person again next year and coming back bold, with new energy, new ideas, and a great event for all!

HIGHLIGHTS...

LONG DISTANCE SMASHERS
Kandi Brouchoud and Laura Morrow

ALUMNI SMASHER
Corrine Schultz

SCAVENGER HUNT SMASHERS
Vanessa Brotske, Adeline Herman, Debra Jones, Brent Bratz, Cal Booth and Laura Morrow.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



COLDWELL BANKER
REAL ESTATE GROUP

LAKESIDE FOODS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Raising a Wild Child Preschool Program

Thursday, June 9th: Frogs
Thursday, July 14th: Flowers
Thursday, August 11th:
Nature Observation
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! Older siblings are welcome during the summer months. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Dress for the weather. Registration required, space is limited in each session. Sponsored by the Edward Jones Office of Carla Liban.

Hiking Through the History of Woodland Dunes

Friday, June 17th | 1:00-2:00pm

Take a 1-hour guided hike along one of our trails and walk through time! As we walk, we will talk about the history of Woodland Dunes starting from the 1800s to the present day. Registration required by Wednesday, June 15th. Meet at Willow Trail. Sponsored by The Winston Group.

Summer Star Parties

Saturday, June 18th 9:30-10:30m
Saturday, July 23rd 9:30-10:30pm
Friday, August 20th 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 your own telescope if you need help figuring out how to set it up. Weather and sky conditions permitting. Program takes place outside the Nature Center. Registration required by the Thursday before each session. Sponsored by The Winston Group.

Mud Day Celebrations

Wednesday, June 29th

International Mud Day is right around the corner, June 29th! Join others around the globe in a day of splashing, rolling, squishing, sliding, making mud pies, and more!



Mud Pie Photo Contest

Sunday, June 26th-Saturday, July 2nd

Celebrate International Mud Day by entering the mud pie photo contest. Get dirty and have fun making a "baked" creation using mud and other natural items. One photo per child with their name and age, can be emailed to Jess at jessicaj@woodlanddunes.org. Photos must be received by midnight on Saturday, July 2nd. Three winners will be randomly selected and prizes awarded! Sponsored by Edward Jones Office of Carla Liban.

Storytime on the Road

Tuesday, June 28th | 10:00am

Manitowoc Public Library will be visiting Woodland Dunes! Join us in singing, talking, reading, creating, and playing at this inclusive, outdoor Storytime for families with preschoolers. Enjoy stories, songs, and fingerplays all about MUD! Then stick around and explore Woodland Dunes! Storytime is a great opportunity to meet new friends, socialize, and strengthen early literacy skills. Recommended for developmental ages 2-5, siblings are welcome. All Storytimes are inclusive and welcoming. You are encouraged to attend the Storytime that best meets your family's developmental needs. Registration is not required. Be prepared to enjoy this outdoor Storytime "picnic style" by bringing a blanket or camp chairs to set up in the lawn (some picnic tables available).

Mud Pool Party

Wednesday, June 29th

Session 1: 2:00-2:45pm Session 2: 3:00-3:45pm
Session 3: 4:00-4:45pm Session 4: 5:00-5:45pm
Members: \$2/child | Non-Members: \$3/child

Celebrate International Mud Day by reserving a mud pool for your family or group! Create a mud pie and enter the mud pie contest, feel the mud squish between your toes and run through the sprinkler when you are ready to clean off! Be prepared to get muddy. An extra change of clothes and plastic bags are highly recommended. Registration required, space is limited. Program is weather dependent. Sponsored by the Edward Jones Office of Carla Liban.

Little-known Aspects of Dragonfly Biology

Thursday, June 30th
10:30am-Noon



Dragonflies do some strange things, some almost alien in nature. Some have bizarre reproductive behaviors, others migrate more than 2,000 miles over ocean waters, and some nymphs detect their prey with an array of bizarre "hoop setae" on their antennae! Join Dr. Ken Tennesen, author of The Dragonfly Nymphs of North America: An Identification Guide, for this interesting program. After an indoor program, we'll head outside to the ponds to look for dragonflies. Registration required by Tuesday, June 28th. Sponsored by the Winston Group.

Forest Hike

Friday, July 8th
9:00am-10:00am



Enjoy a 1-hour guided hike through our forest while we talk about our tree planting project, what trees we are planting (and why), and see what other neat forest things we can find! Registration required by Wednesday, July 6th. Meet at the end of E. Goodwin Rd. Sponsored by the Winston Group.

Firefly Night

Friday, July 8th

8:45-9:00pm: Storytime with Lester Public Library
9:00-10:00pm: Firefly 101
Members: \$4; \$10 family
Non-members: \$5; \$15 family



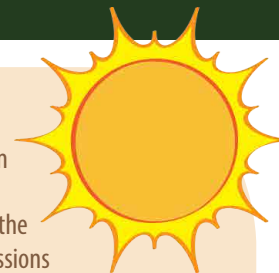
Enjoy an evening light show at the Dunes!! Arrive early to enjoy a short storytime with our friends from the Lester Public Library. Then learn a few firefly basics before carefully catching and observing these amazing insects. Entire program is outdoors, bring your bug spray. Registration required. Program is weather dependent.

Nature Time Tuesdays

Tuesdays

July 12th: Pond Life
July 19th: Fun with the Sun
July 26th: Owls
August 2nd: Animal Adaptations
August 9th: Flowers
Session 1: 1:30-2:15pm
Session 2: 3:00-3:45pm

Families are invited to participate in nature-themed activities that everyone will enjoy. Takes place at the Nature Center rain or shine. Two sessions available each Tuesday afternoon (extra session available July 26th for Owl Week) with new themes each week. Registration required, space is limited. Sponsored by the Edward Jones Office of Carla Liban.



Owl Week

Sunday, July 24th-
Saturday, July 30th

Join us for an exciting week celebrating owls! Enjoy on-site activities like an owl-themed Nature Time Tuesday, an owl grab and go activity, and meet local wildlife rehabilitators, Wildlife of Wisconsin and their education birds of prey. This week will be a hoot! Registration is required for some programs, see details below. Sponsored by ATC.



Owl-themed Nature Time Tuesday for Families

Tuesday, July 26th
Session 1: 12:30-1:15
Session 2: 1:30-2:15
Session 3: 3:00-3:45
Registration required for one of the sessions.

All About Owls with Wildlife of Wisconsin

Wednesday, July 27th | 6:00-6:45pm

Owls aren't just in books and movies. Meet some of the owls and raptors that live around us and learn about these magnificent silent hunters. Find out what brings owls to Wildlife Of Wisconsin, and why no litter is safe litter. Program takes place under the pavilion. Registration is required.

Owl Senses Walk

Sunday, July 24th-Saturday, July 30th

Celebrate Owl Week by learning about owl senses and Wisconsin owls! Stations will be set up along the first part of Willow Trail and can be enjoyed anytime from dawn until dusk.

Owl Craft Grab & Go Activity

Monday, July 25th-Saturday, July 30th

Stop at the front desk of the Nature Center and pick up an owl art project to take home. The Nature Center is open Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:00pm and Saturday 9:00am-Noon.

Owl Pellet Dissection Kits Available \$10.00/kit

Visit the gift shop to purchase a kit you can take home for a cool science investigation! Kit includes one large owl pellet (sterilized), tweezers, dissection pick, bone chart, instructions and information about owl digestion. These make great gifts for kids!

The History of Saw-whet Owl Banding at the Dunes

Thursday, July 28th
2:00-3:00pm

Woodland Dunes has been banding northern saw-whet owls for about 50 years! Learn the natural history of these small owls, the banding process and see the tools our master bird bander, Jim Knickelbine, uses. He'll also reveal interesting findings from the years of research and explain the importance of this project. Registration required by Tuesday, July 26th.



Field Sketching/Nature Journaling Workshop

Saturday, August 6th | 9:00am-Noon
Members: \$10 | Non-members: \$15



Nature journaling is the practice of drawing or writing in response to nature. Through close observation, we notice details we may not have seen, we may record things we might have forgotten, and we improve our recognition and appreciation of different plant and animal species.

This workshop, led by Manitowoc science illustrator and educator Rebecca Jabs, involves active outdoor participation. Following an introduction to the activity by the instructor, participants will record observations through sketching and note-taking. Participants will look for inspiration in the natural areas in the vicinity of the Nature Center. Supplies and paper will be provided for the workshop, but feel free to bring your favorite sketchbook if you have one. Participants may also choose to bring a foldable camp chair. Dress for the weather, registration required by Thursday, August 4th. In the event of rain, the event will be postponed to Saturday, August 13th.

Bugler Preserve & Pollinators

Friday, August 12th | 9:00-10:00am



Walk through an area where the public is not typically able to go... our Bugler Preserve. While we walk through prairies full of native wildflowers, we will discuss the history of this preserve, current projects, and pollinators. Registration required by Wednesday, August 10th. Sponsored by the Winston Group.

Insects After Dark, Featuring Moths

Friday, August 19th | 8:00-10:00pm



Observe moths up-close as Entomologist Kyle Johnson uses lights and baits to conduct moth surveys. Bring bug spray/protective clothing, a headlamp/flashlight and dress for the weather. Survey will take place by the Field Station, meet at the end of E. Goodwin Road at 8:00pm. Registration required by Wednesday, August 17th. This program is weather dependent.

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



The Butterfly & Bee Garden

Practicing Patience with Leadplant

When spring finally wakes up our outdoor spaces, many Lakeshore inhabitants are impatient to see the signs: we want to hear lots of birds, we want to feel warm temperatures, and we hope to view colorful blossoms. Working with native plants helps me practice patience, because many of ours in the Dorothy R. Star Butterfly and Bee Garden will not bloom until mid-summer.

There's one plant in the garden, a woody prairie shrub, that helps me practice patience more than any other. It's called **Leadplant** (*Amorpha canescens*). It takes a few years to become fully mature, and when that time comes, it shows off its unique spikes of iridescent purple flowers above its silver-grey foliage. It handles drought well, it survives in any kind of well-drained soil, and it doesn't need to be cut back. So, it would be easy to forget about it during the years of waiting! Our Leadplant is almost three years old now - hopefully this summer its purple spikes will finally be enjoyed by human eyes and by visitors like sweat bees, carpenter bees, and bumble bees. We'll keep you posted on Facebook when it happens!

— Wendy Lutzke, Butterfly & Bee Garden Coordinator



Solar project rendering

Bright Future for Woodland Dunes

Things are looking pretty bright for Woodland Dunes - that's because we will be expanding our solar photovoltaic system, thanks to the generosity of several donors and foundations. Our current system is very modest, offsetting about 10% of the electricity needs of the center. It's been in place for 10 years and has given us no problems at all. The panels are still working at more than 85% of their original capacity.

Prices have continued to fall on solar technology, and we've also committed to expanding our generation by improving the system to offset about 60% of our energy use. We'll incorporate the roof surface of our recent addition for our panels. This area around the nature center is open and sunny and much is south-facing.

We've been working on this project for about a year now. Our contractor will be Eland Electric from Green Bay, with whom we've been working to maximize our benefit. Jesse Michalski of Eland designed the proposed system. Included is an educational display about solar energy generation and usage.

The total cost is about \$42,000, of which we estimate about \$37,000 will be offset by grants and donations. As the payback period will be very short, our finance committee and Board have given their blessing to proceed with the project. At present, the remaining needed funds will be covered through Woodland Dunes savings, but of course, we will welcome donations to help cover the last \$5,000 or so.

We feel that this project will both enhance our environmental education mission, and demonstrate our commitment to our natural resources. With the ever-increasing documentation of the link between burning carbon-based fuels and disruptions in climate patterns, we feel compelled to do as much as we can to offset that. Plus, we will strengthen our organization's bottom line by reducing our costs in energy consumption. Forward motions such as this will help us continue to be sustainable well into the future.

Here's to looking on the sunny side!

By Jim Knickelbine

New "Neshotah Swales Preserve" Donated to Woodland Dunes

Recently, Woodland Dunes received two donations of land north of the City of Two Rivers from Jenene and Michael Garey and Don and Brenda DeBruyn. They total about six acres and are forested with a couple of ridges and swales - just across the street from the south end of Point Beach State Forest.

We accepted the land because the parcels offer good habitat for nesting and migrating songbirds traveling along the lakeshore. The tract will be called the "Neshotah Swales Preserve" and we will manage it to benefit wildlife. They can be viewed from both Neshotah Road and Pine Tree Road.

Volunteers have already been removing invasive, non-native honeysuckle this spring. We will be adding interpretive signs to identify the Preserve and to educate about its ridge and swale habitat.

Thanks to the Gareys and DeBruyns for caring about wildlife, conserving habitat, and trusting us to look after these properties.



Land Management

We are excited about the upcoming summer as our latest crew of summer interns will arrive on June 6. We have seven fantastic, energetic students that will work on planting 2500 trees to help mitigate the effects of the invasive insect, the emerald ash borer (EAB). Remember this bug kills all ash trees in the genus *Fraxinus*. And yes, we have found significant signs of EAB on our property. This tree planting work is made possible by a grant from the United States Forest Service (USFS). The interns will also help enhance habitat for the endangered rusty patched bumble bee and continue work on controlling invasive plants, such as honeysuckle and barberry.

Speaking of controlling invasives, our Assistant Naturalist, Kennedy Zittel, worked with several volunteers over the winter season. These hardy souls treated about five acres to remove honeysuckle in and around our Willow Trail. In addition, another group of volunteers treated more honeysuckle along Pine Tree Road, in Two Rivers. This part of Woodland Dunes has been dubbed the Neshotah Swales Preserve. Right now, we have paused most of our invasive species control projects while the plants bloom and grow, the birds return from their winter ground to nest, and critters are acclimating to the warmer weather.

On the former Kaas property, Stantec Consulting Inc. completed tree and shrub planting as well as invasive control. This part of the Preserve is located just south of the railroad tracks. The goal for the planting is to mitigate ash trees dying from EAB and to enhance the species diversity and quality of habitat.

In the month of May our volunteers' focus is cutting chicken wire for tree protection cages. We've received our order of 68 rolls of chicken wire, and as of this writing, we have about 20 rolls processed. Our 2500 trees will be arriving in early June. Thank you all for assisting with this critical project for tree survival beyond the deer browse.

— Sue Crowley, Land Management Coordinator

Card received from Lucille T. —

"Thank you for assisting my four great grandchildren from Minnesota on Friday. They returned with joy, talking endlessly about their visit. Next time, hopefully it will be drier conditions so they can walk the trails! Again, thanks!"

THANK YOU

Memoriams/Honoriams

In Memory of Cynthia Bayless

Bonnie O'Leske

In Honor of Rosie Bugs

Bonnie O'Leske

In Honor of Bob Damagalski

Bonnie O'Leske

In Honor of Charlie & Joanne Geiger

Bonnie O'Leske

In Memory of Cecelia Held

Charles and Marilyn Sontag

In Honor of Jon Henry

Gerald and Patricia Henry

In Honor of Tom and Betsy Kocourek

Charles and Marilyn Sontag

In Memory of Armond Kueter

Lawrence Kueter

In Honor of Ione Kueter

Michael & Jenene Garey

In Memory of Kathleen Pilzak

Mary Ellen Sampe

In Memory of Norb Pritzl

Bonnie O'Leske

In Honor of Laura Post

Paul and Nancy Dvorachek

In Memory of Thomas Rees

Robert and Roberta Abendroth

In Memory of David Schaap

Janet Kohn

In Memory of Leon Soeldner

Mona Moen

In Honor of Charles Sontag

Bonnie O'Leske

In Memory of John Treadwell

Michael and Pamela Emme

In Honor of Darlene Waterstreet

Bonnie O'Leske

In Honor John and Julie Woodcock

Bonnie O'Leske

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Inkind Donations

Sue Crowley

Rick Schultz

Donations are recognized on a quarterly basis. If you don't see your donation on here, it missed the cutoff and will be in the next issue. Thank you.



WOODLAND DUNES

NATURE CENTER & PRESERVE

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Email: nature@woodlanddunes.org
Website: www.woodlanddunes.org
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<i>Communications & Development Coordinator</i>	Nancy Nabak
<i>Land Management Coordinator</i>	Sue Crowley
<i>Assistant Naturalist</i>	Kennedy Zittel
<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Jenifer Thompson
<i>Environmental Educator/ Butterfly Garden Coordinator</i>	Wendy Lutzke

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