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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Another busy season and year are coming to an end. It's hard to appreciate all that is happening when you're in the middle of it, but it's rewarding to take a look back.

As the pandemic finally eased, it was good to welcome more school groups back to our programs. We had many young visitors from preschools and kindergartens, and our Wild Child series was busy, often requiring more than one session per day. The spring and fall were also busy with grade school programs, and we're grateful for all the schools who attended and volunteers who helped teach. We had a diverse array of adult programs, and were active in the Two Rivers' Teen Night program. (We like to collaborate with others in the community to provide safe activities for teens on weekend evenings.)

We have a new trail at the Henry Wetland on Woodland Drive. Actually, we moved the Coneflower Trail from the prairie planting east of Woodland Dr. over to Henry on the west side. With the addition of the 80 acres, its more appropriate to have the trail there. The new trail is a half mile or so on higher ground at the wetland project, and was mowed in late fall so it is available for hiking now and skiing when the snow flies.

Our new photovoltaic system has been installed and will soon be operational and will be providing

the equivalent of the majority of our electrical usage. We'll soon be working on an educational display about the system near the entrance to the Nature Center.

We have a big and exciting goal of replacing the remainder of the Cattail Trail boardwalk in 2023, and are applying for grant funding to accomplish that. We feel it's important to make the trail wider, more level, and more accessible.

We are also happy to have received three grants to restore 2,500 feet of Forget Me Not Creek to a natural state. At present, the creek is ditched and is not biologically diverse. We have already started on improvements surrounding the stream. In the coming year, we will work on construction of an improved channel itself, connected to adjacent wetlands to further enhance the waterway for fish and other wildlife.

We've successfully reintroduced wild rice to a small portion of the West Twin River, and are further working on that effort to benefit our local wildlife.

It's been a good year, thanks to your help and support. I'm sure that next year will be a good one as well, and together, we'll have a very positive impact on our local environment.

Best wishes to you all.

~ Jim Knickelbine, Executive Director

“
It's been a good
year, thanks to
your help
and support.”





Land Management

As the calendar year winds down, we reflect on the work of the past year. Our land management team (including volunteers, interns, and contractors), accomplished some wonderful habitat work, as well as grounds and building upkeep.

We successfully planted and protected 2,500 trees and shrubs on a 26-acre triangle. We planted more trees and shrubs on a 15-acre parcel located on the south end of our main preserve. We worked on reducing the presence of invasive plant species such as reed canary grass, honeysuckle shrubs, buckthorn, and Japanese barberry. Among staff, interns, contractors and volunteers, we treated about 75 acres.

A beautiful new boardwalk (picture) is now in place on the Ice Age Trail and Trillium Trail. We had the perfect dry conditions to build and install it. In addition, we finished the corner piece on the Willow Trail boardwalk as well as touched up a few degraded places on Cattail Trail boardwalk. Stairs for the elevated platform on the Henry Wetland Preserve are present and ready for climbing to view this amazing restoration success story.

From a facilities and grounds standpoint, we cleaned and organized the barn. We also acquired proper cabinets for storing our herbicides and flammables (gas and diesel fuel). We received a generous donation of an ATV that makes us more efficient for our field work. Volunteers from Grace Congregational Church helped upgrade the sky shed with insulation and wood paneling. The land management team is gearing up with QGIS software to aid in mapping our projects. For example, we are flagging many of our Japanese barberry patches for our contractor to treat over the winter months. We can save these areas digitally and present them on a map. Lastly, three of our staff have certified as pesticide applicators.

We are preparing for next year's tree and shrub planting, hiring interns, and writing some grant proposals for more habitat work. We noticed our ash trees are succumbing to the emerald ash borer's work. We will continue to see more and more ash trees die from the emerald ash borer's larval stage that bore just under the bark creating tunnels and interrupting the flow of nutrients for the tree. We will not be cutting the ash trees, except in cases where they become hazard trees near our trails.

A huge THANK YOU goes out to all the people who help with invasive control and boardwalk building. If anyone is interested in volunteering for this type of work, please contact me via phone 920.793.4007 or email: suec@woodlanddunes.org.

— Sue Crowley, Land Management Coordinator



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Sue Shea and Ken Weymouth

How long have you volunteered at Woodland Dunes and why did you decide to get involved? We have been helping at Woodland Dunes for the past four years. A friend had been volunteering at the Dunes and really enjoyed it, so we decided to give it a try. Plus, we had just finished the Wisconsin Master Naturalist Program and were encouraged to volunteer following our training. It has been a great experience!

What do you most enjoy about being involved with Woodland Dunes? Helping with the education programs has been our main focus, but we have also assisted with tree planting, the Bird Breakfast event, and help in the Butterfly Garden. We feel strongly that the school-age education programs make a difference in our community by providing young people an opportunity to experience nature and learn about the environment. It's been great seeing the excitement of the kids and to know there's a lot of learning going on. If young people are enthusiastic about being outside, it's a win for everyone. We've enjoyed working with the other volunteers. They are fun to be around and so knowledgeable. We learn something every time. Jess, the Education Coordinator, is amazing. She is super organized and provides training so that we can feel confident in whatever activity we are assisting with. She personifies the Woodland Dunes education creed: "In regard to nature, a person will love what they know and will preserve what they love; our education mission is to help people do both."

What are some of your favorite pastimes or hobbies? Traveling to new places is something we love. There are always interesting places to see and things to do. We have been visiting all the national and state parks that we can. Ken is a fly fisherman and builds/repairs bamboo rods. Sue enjoys gardening, reading and planning the next trip.

Words of wisdom for other volunteers? Woodland Dunes is a great place to get involved. There are many different ways to contribute in addition to the education programs. New volunteers can find something that's interesting to them and that fits their schedules.



THANK YOU, 2022 VOLUNTEERS!

134 volunteers put in 2,026 hours of work time!

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Greeting guests | Answering phones |
| Trail repairs | Planting trees |
| Removing invasive species | Educating children |
| Adopting a Highway | Conducting mushroom & moss surveys |
| Enhancing the Butterfly Garden | Creating special events |
| Owl banding | & more! |

Thank You!

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.

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Meet Kyle and Nancy, A Winning Team!

By Nancy Nabak,
 Communication
 Coordinator



If you've visited our Nature Center in the past five months or so, I'm sure you've noticed how spiffy clean it is. That's because the powerhouse team, Kyle and Nancy from Ascend Services, Inc. are making sure it's nice while you're here.

Over the past year, we were looking for reliable, hired help to keep our Center clean, and Ascend Services, Inc. came to mind. The mission of Ascend is to promote individual growth by providing community experiences, education, and employment opportunities. Knowing this, we made a phone call.

Happy to hear from us, Logan Rooney, Employment Connector of Ascend said, "We look for partnerships across our community to enhance individual growth. When I began working with Kyle, he told me he wanted to clean. Communication regarding our services with Woodland Dunes was easy as they were eager and willing to accept Kyle into their community - growing the partnership between our two organizations."

It's hard to have a case of the Mondays when Kyle and Nancy show up. They are so dependable, and we know there's always a smile and happy greeting before they dig in. So why not meet these two rays of sunshine? Meet Kyle and Nancy.

Questions to Kyle:

What do you like best about working at Woodland Dunes? Cleaning the bathrooms! And, my name tag. (Kyle is very proud of his name tag, and in fact, now wears two of them.)

What is your favorite animal in nature? Wild goats.

How long would you like to work at Woodland Dunes? Forever!
 I'm a good cleaner.

Is there anything else you'd like us to know? You do good things for me and I like it here. (He also added that Nancy's a great helper.)

Questions to Nancy:

How long have you been working with Kyle? About 4 months, but I've known Kyle for five or six years. This is my first coaching job with him.

What do you like best about working with Kyle? He's a good listener. He takes instruction so well, and he's a very good cleaner, so it makes my job easier. And he's fun to work with. We like to laugh.

What is your favorite animal in nature? All birds! I like watching them, planting flowers they like, and filling my bird bath for them.

We're grateful for this dynamic duo and how they make the Nature Center nice for our guests. Thank you, Kyle, Nancy, and Ascend Services, Inc. We appreciate you!

Stories from The Herbarium: Sister M. Teresita Kittell

(November 10, 1892 - June 18, 1990)

By Kennedy Zittel, Assistant Naturalist



A discussion of stories from our herbarium wouldn't be complete without mentioning who founded it. Sister Teresita Kittell was born in West De Pere, Wisconsin. The

former Mildred Kittell entered the convent in 1918 and professed her vows in 1920. She went on to receive her BA, MS, and Ph.D. degrees in botany from Catholic University in Washington D.C., graduating in 1941. She taught for 19 years in elementary and secondary schools throughout Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, and Nebraska. As she traveled the country teaching, she collected plants.

She then taught for 29 years as a professor of biology at Holy Family College in Manitowoc (Silver Lake College). She was the chair of the biology department and it was there that she began the herbarium collection. Taking the plants she had collected over the years, and then trading specimens with other botanists allowed her to accumulate an incredibly diverse collection from around the world. In addition to her collections and

other botanists' collections, students and staff of Holy Family College also collected plants for their botany courses that were then placed in the herbarium. This is why we have such a large amount of plants from Manitowoc County in this collection, which is an excellent resource for studying how plant species of the county changed over time.

It was common in the early stages of botany for plant collectors to trade their specimens with others to grow their personal herbarium collections. Once collectors gathered enough plant specimens from certain regions, the first field guides of those areas were able to be created. Sister Teresita herself even cowrote one of the first field guides of New Mexico and Arizona. Perhaps unknowingly, but by collecting, preserving, and storing these plant specimens the early botanists have allowed us to be able to compare plant ranges from over a hundred years ago to where those plants are growing today. How neat is that?

Sister Teresita received numerous awards for her work as a biologist and conservationist and is a published author. One of her books called "Ferns of Manitowoc County" (1965), is referenced and used here to this day! After she retired in 1971, she spent her time researching and writing

articles on the history of Manitowoc County and the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity, and those articles were then published in the Manitowoc County Historical Society's Newsletter.

We are honored to be the recipients of the collection after the closure of Holy Family College (Silver Lake College). It is a truly wonderful collection, with plants from around the world with collection dates dating all the way back to the early 1800s. We are looking forward to getting the collection fully cataloged (as there is currently no written record of its existence or contents). I have been slowly working on this project, as we are still trying to source funding for my time to sort through the thousands of specimen sheets. Every time I get to work on this project I am amazed at the quality of the specimens and perhaps even more amazed at the stories that I am coming across of the collectors. I cannot wait to finish this project so we can share the data with everyone else, so you all can see the amazing collection that Sister Teresita has created.

How Sweet It Is!

We received this touching note this fall from former Manitowoc County resident, Jeannie Tuschl.

On their visit to the Dunes this September, Jeannie and her son, from Nashville, TN, held baby Anna up so she could touch the tree, but Anna felt compelled to give the tree a kiss.

"We loved our visit to Woodland Dunes. Anna especially loved the frogs jumping around on the trail. What a delight! Thank you for all your hard work to create a delightful place to enjoy nature."

More from Jeannie:

Baby Anna, nine months old, held out her hand to touch the tree, but she also wanted to give the small tree a big hug and kiss. There are many big trees in her backyard in Nashville, TN, but this small, baby-sized tree was just her size.

Anna was delighted to meet and visit with friends and relatives in Manitowoc for the first time. She especially loved the opportunity to be outside observing wild animals and insects, admiring trees and plants she had never before seen, and filling every one of her senses with new experiences.

Even at her young age, Anna enjoyed the Little Wings Playground and was captivated by the exhibits in the Nature Center. The wonders of nature that filled Woodland Dunes were especially intriguing for Anna. After a very busy afternoon, Anna fell asleep in the car holding her newly purchased stuffed snake in remembrance of the Woodland Dunes.

Jeannie Tuschl
 Lebanon, TN
 Formerly of Manitowoc County



UPCOMING EVENTS

Unless otherwise stated, registration is required for all programs. To register for a program, call 793-4007 or email Jess at jessicaj@woodlanddunes.org.

Raising a Wild Child

Thursday, December 8th: Squirrels and Cones
 Thursday, January 12th: Snowshoe Hike
 Thursday, February 9th: Scat
 9:30-10:45 a.m.
 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, majority of the program takes place outdoors. Registration required, space is limited in each session. Sponsored by the Edward Jones Office of Carla Liban.



Owl Prowl

Thursday, December 15th
 6:00-7:15pm
 Donations appreciated

Start inside and learn about common owls found in Wisconsin during the winter. Then enjoy a guided night hike to look and listen for owls in the preserve. Space is limited, registration required by Monday, December 12th. Sponsored by the Winston Group and Next Era.

Family Fun Over Winter Break!

Have a fun adventure at the Dunes over the holiday break! The trails are open dawn to dusk and the family education room will be open 9am-4pm, Monday-Friday the week of December 26th. Stop in and explore the family room, take a hike, or join us for the fun Pudgy Pies program.



Pudgy Pies and Animal Disguise

Thursday, December 29th
 1:00-3:00pm

Donations appreciated

Can you find the animals in disguise? Bring the whole family on this self-guided walk along Willow Trail to look for camouflaged animals. Warm up by the fire and even make your own pudgy pie (a toasted sandwich made over the coals of a fire)! Registration required by Tuesday, December 27th.



Trail Camera Highlights

Thursday, January 19th
 1:00pm

Enjoy a guided winter walk to look for signs of animals that we have seen on our trail cameras. But don't fret, if we don't see any we have photos of these animals! We will share some of our best trail camera photos of the critters that live in the preserve. Program will take place outside, dress for the weather. Registration required by Monday, January 16th, space is limited. Sponsored by the Winston Group and Next Era.

Candlelight Night

Saturday, February 4th
 6:30-8:30pm
 Members: \$5/person; \$15/family
 Non-members: \$8/person;
 \$20/family

Enjoy a fun, relaxing evening with friends and family! Stroll along a candlelit trail, warm up by the fire with s'mores and hot beverages, and visit our astronomer friends to view winter constellations (weather permitting). If there's snow, snowshoes will be available for use (first come, first served basis) or bring your own. Registration is required and will open Mon, January 23rd.



Come See the Conifers

Wednesday, February 15th
 1:00pm

Learn about Wisconsin's 13 native conifer species on this guided walk along Conifer Trail. Most species can be seen in the preserve, but photos will be shown for those that do not grow in this area. Registration required by Monday, February 13th, space is limited. Sponsored by the Winston Group and Next Era.

Read a Book and Take a Look

Friday, February 17th
 1:00pm

Bring the family for a winter-themed storytime by the fireplace with our friends from the Lester Public Library. Then head outside to look for winter signs and explore the trails. Hot cocoa will be available and the family room will be open for indoor fun. Registration required by Wednesday, February 15th.



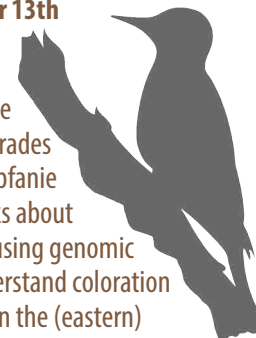
Virtual Adult Learning Opportunities

We are offering virtual programs this winter 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 the registration deadline for each program. You will receive an email with directions and a link to the presentation. NEW this winter: come to the Nature Center to watch the presentation on the big screen (registration still required)! Contact Jess with any questions. Sponsored by the Winston Group and Next Era.

Fun with Flicker Feathers: Studying Genomes to Understand Coloration in the Northern Flicker

Tuesday, December 13th
 6:00pm

Have you ever wondered about the coloration of intergrades in flickers? Join Stephanie Aguilon as she talks about her ongoing work using genomic sequencing to understand coloration differences between the (eastern) yellow-shafted and (western) red-shafted flickers using these iconic intergrades. Stephanie completed her PhD in 2021 at Cornell University and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in upstate New York studying northern flickers. Recently, she moved to California for a postdoctoral position at Stanford University studying fish. Registration required by Friday, December 9th.



Native Bees of Wisconsin

Tuesday, January 17th
 6:00pm

Wisconsin is home to 500 kinds of native bees! Susan Carpenter, Native Plant Garden Curator at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum, will help us discover the diversity and life histories of these important pollinators. She will also discuss how you can create and manage habitat for them, using native plants and bee-friendly gardening practices. Registration required by Friday, January 13th.



Pollinator Plants for the Home Landscape

Tuesday, February 21st
 6:00pm

Learn how to use native pollinator plants in your home landscape. Justin Kroening, owner of Stone Silo Prairie Gardens, will share tips on how to design, plant, and maintain natural gardens to give them an intentional pleasing look. Registration required by Friday, February 17th.



Snowshoe Rentals

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



Enchanted Forest Was a Hoot!

What a magical night at the Enchanted Forest event! Families learned about woodland creatures, enjoyed looking for the carved nature pumpkins in the garden, and had fun spending time together outside. Costumed guests (212), 17 volunteers, and three staff members made this event a fantastic fall tradition. Thank you to the Sunrise Optimists of Manitowoc for sponsoring this event and thank you to the Two Rivers Octagon Club for carving pumpkins!



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



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!

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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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|--------------------------------|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | Individual |
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| <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!