



# The Dunesletter

A Publication of Woodland Dunes Nature Center and Preserve



**Fritz Schuler**

Co-producer of Woodland Dunes' Concert Series, Fritz Schuler has been called "the walking encyclopedia of folk music" by Tom Martin-Erickson of Wisconsin Public Radio's Simply Folk. Strongly influenced by the rural music of the 1920s and '30s, Schuler draws from a wide range of traditional music, from the Memphis jugband blues to Appalachian mountain songs and ballads. His many connections in the world of folk music make our exceptional concert series possible; we also appreciate his remarkable musical skills in his occasional performances at Woodland Dunes.

## Autumn 2010

Volume 141

Coming Events .....	2,3
Citizen Scientist Monitors .....	3
Facility Rental, Restoration .....	4
Poetry, Confusing Fall Plumage .....	5
Oh, Give Me a Home .....	6
Coneflower Trail .....	8
Kidland Dunes .....	9
The Living Classroom .....	10
Phenology .....	11
Garden Wars .....	12
Birds .....	13
Thank You .....	14
Fund drive .....	15

### From the Director

After the hot summer we are grateful for the wonderful autumn weather. Autumn is when our wildlife, both resident and migrant, is most abundant. In the Preserve, plants, animals and insects are taking advantage of the moderating temperatures to prepare for the extremes of winter. I hope you will also take advantage of the pleasant weather by visiting the Preserve and the Nature Center, hiking the trails, and learning about our amazing fellow creatures.

This past summer was very busy. More than 1,000 people participated in programs at Woodland Dunes and we welcomed many visitors, including those seeking out our butterfly garden and natural play area. Although mosquitoes were abundant in the woods (good for the birds, not so appealing to people), Cattail Trail had few mosquitoes and offered views of songbirds and ospreys.

Our prairie planting along Woodland Drive and Goodwin Road is developing as we had hoped. Among the maturing native wildflowers and grasses, we saw quite a few grassland birds such as sedge wrens, dickcissels, bobolinks, grasshopper and savannah sparrows, sandhill cranes, eastern meadowlarks, and harriers, as well as more common species. We are happy to see these species in this habitat during the nesting period. The pond near Goodwin Road was in almost continuous use by waterfowl and waders, including mallards, blue-winged teal (both raised broods there), great blue herons, a great egret, and, of course, Canada geese. Visitors, including school children, are exploring the prairie on Coneflower Trail (see page 8).

For our staff, the summer included the pleasant task of greeting both new and familiar visitors, doing bird surveys, providing summer programs for visiting groups, coordinating volunteers, and working on fundraising strategies to maintain our operations. Securing funding for nonprofits is a challenge; thanks to everyone who has supported us through our fund drive and other donations.

Now that the nesting (and mosquito) season is just about over, we will need to spend more time and effort on controlling invasive plants. This summer I spent some time in the South visiting relatives; the sight of invasive kudzu vine covering literally acres of ground, shrubs, and trees (seven million acres of land in the South) looked like a nightmare. It reinforced my determination to ensure that invasive species don't degrade our Preserve. Despite the invasive species, our habitat and wildlife are still exceptional. I recently talked with folks who knew our property when they were young. One expressed his feeling of gratitude to our organization for buying the land and restoring the habitat that in the early to mid part of the last century was already being fragmented and degraded. It validated what our founders and their successors have been doing. I hope we never lose sight of that.



*Volunteers from Grace Congregational Church build tree platforms in Little Wings.*

**Jim Knickelbine, Director**

# Coming Events

To confirm events and register for classes, please call Woodland Dunes, (920) 793-4007 or email [kellye@woodlanddunes.org](mailto:kellye@woodlanddunes.org)

## PICNIC ON THE PRAIRIE

Friday, September 3 • 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.



Enjoy an evening on the prairie. Hike the trail and stop at stations along the way to learn about the plants and wildlife that use the prairie. Bring a blanket and picnic to enjoy the sounds of the prairie as the sun begins to set. Meet east of the Goodwin Rd./Woodland Dr. intersection, at the prairie overlook. Call the Nature Center for directions: (920) 793-4007.

## Five Buck Hootenanny

Saturday, September 25 • 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Fee: \$5 adults; \$2 for children 12 and under.

Tap your toe to folk music in our family-friendly setting. Pete Johnson, a singer-songwriter adept at fingerstyle guitar, flat-picking, hybrid picking and slide guitar will play a wide range of tunes from swing to traditional folk. He'll be joined by our own Fritz Schuler. It's a combination that is hard to match anywhere.

## Owlfest

Saturday, October 16 • 8:00 a.m. to noon

A celebration of the fall migration of the saw-whet owl. This year we will feature our local animal rescue organization, WOW, with their owls. Owl banding and release demonstrations, nature activities, guided hikes and more!

## Five Buck Hootenanny

Saturday, October 23 • 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Fee: \$5 adults; \$2 for children 12 and under.

Enjoy the witty, insightful songs of musician Jym Mooney. He has been making a name for himself on the folk scene in Milwaukee and across Wisconsin for over thirty years and has released several recordings to positive critical response; this is your chance to hear him in person. Held at Woodland Dunes in the Edna Smith room.

## Enchanted Forest

Saturday, October 30 • 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Members: Family, \$8, individual, \$4; Non-members: Family, \$10, individual, \$5

Journey through a candlelit forest to meet some of Mother Nature's favorite (costumed) animals. The outside self-guided hike has surprises around every turn; indoor space and warm refreshments will be available. This will be an educational evening, not a scary one. Please wear costumes and warm clothing.

## Harvest Dinner

Saturday, November 13, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

(see page 3)

## Dunes Movie Night

Thursday, November 18 • 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. • Admission: \$2 per person

### Microcosmos!

Employing unique microscopic cameras and powerful specialized microphones, this highly praised French documentary is a fascinating look at the seldom-explored world of insects and other minute creatures as they go about their daily lives. With footage of ladybugs feasting and snails mating set to a mystical score by composer Bruno Coulais, the film won five César Awards, including Best Cinematography and Best Music. This film is rated G.

## Herbal Gift Making

Thursday, December 2 • 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Herbs make great gifts for the holiday season. Join herbalist Linda Conroy as we craft an array of herbal creations that will serve as inspirational gifts for loved ones—or yourself. Participants will make a body spray, healing salve, massage oil, tea blend and much more! Herbal infusions will be served as we enjoy this fun, interactive and informative evening. Program will take place at the Nature Center. **Registration and payment required by November 18th. \$30, member; \$35, non-member.**

## Snow Ball

Saturday, January 22 • 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Members: Family, \$8, individual, \$4; Non-members: Family, \$10, individual, \$5

Enjoy storytelling in the tipi, candlelight snowshoe hikes and warm up with chili around the campfires. Don't miss this fun celebration of winter! Note: This event is held at Woodland Dunes Field Station on Goodwin Road.

## 2010 Raffle

Take a chance and win a kayak, or one of the other great prizes. Tickets are available at the Nature Center; pick yours up in the Nature Shop during regular office hours or at special events.

### Prizes

Grand Prize: Perception Sport Kayak

1st Place Prize: Barska 20-60x Spotting Scope

2nd Place Prize: \$50 cash

3rd Place Prize: Voices of North American Owls CD

Raffle tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. The drawing for the raffle will take place at Owlfest on Saturday, October 16, at 11:30 a.m. You do not need to be present to win. Proceeds from the raffle will support Woodland Dunes' programs in education and land management programs. Contact Jessica at [jessicaj@woodlanddunes.org](mailto:jessicaj@woodlanddunes.org) or (920) 793-4007 for more information.

For information, call (920) 793-4007 or check our website at [www.woodlanddunes.org](http://www.woodlanddunes.org).

Unless noted, all events are held at the Nature Center.

# At the Dunes



Greg Septon (left) bands a peregrine falcon chick with the help of Bill Holton at the Milwaukee We Energies Valley power plant.

## Winnie Smith Harvest Dinner

Saturday, November 13 • 6:00 p.m.

Please join us for our annual Harvest Dinner, held in honor of founding member, Winnie Smith. This fundraiser celebrates the season with an autumn-themed meal, silent auction and guest speaker. It will be held at Grace Congregational Church in Two Rivers.

The evening will begin with appetizers and punch and a chance to participate in the silent auction. The dinner, catered by Lighthouse Inn, includes the choice of butternut ravioli in a cider crème sauce or a maple-apple chicken breast with roasted red potatoes with parsley. Both come with a tossed salad and green beans with feta, dried cranberries and pecans. Finish with apple or pumpkin pie.

Greg Septon, director of the Milwaukee Public Museum's Natural History Outreach Section and manager of the Peregrine Falcon Recovery Program, will present an after-dinner program. Greg has led several collecting expeditions and spent time along Alaska's Arctic coast, living with the native Inupiaqs, photographing, collecting, and painting birds. He has lectured worldwide, published extensively, and has artwork in the permanent collections of museums and private collections. For the past 23 years, he has directed and managed an urban peregrine falcon recovery effort as part of the Wisconsin Peregrine Falcon Recovery Program and implemented similar programs in Russia and Poland. His richly illustrated presentation will provide an overview of the peregrine falcon recovery efforts in Wisconsin between 1987 and 2010, management issues and resolutions, the role of electric power generating plants in the recovery of the population, and what the future holds for the peregrine falcon in Wisconsin.

**Reservations are required: tickets are \$50 per person. Please call Woodland Dunes (920) 793-4007 to make a reservation.**

## Citizen Science Monitoring

Citizen science is a term used for projects in which individual volunteers or networks of volunteers, many of whom may have no previous scientific training, perform research-related tasks such as observation, measurement or computation.

The use of citizen-science networks allows scientists to accomplish research objectives that might not otherwise be possible. In addition, these projects promote public engagement with the research, as well as with science in general.

Woodland Dunes is involved in a number of citizen science projects. These projects are great learning opportunities for individuals and families alike.

## Winter Bird Count

Each year Woodland Dunes coordinates four winter bird counts in Manitowoc County. This year they will be held on December 18 and 19, and January 1 and 2.

Information will be available at the Aegolius Bird Club meeting on December 14, or by calling Woodland Dunes. The results are compiled and submitted to the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, which tracks and publishes Christmas count results for Wisconsin counties.

## Invasive Species Monitoring and Removal

Help to monitor the spread of invasive plant and animal species in our area, and control them in the Woodland Dunes Preserve and beyond.

## Saw-whet Owl Banding

Meeting: September 25 • 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Join the elite group of volunteers who help with the saw-whet owl banding project. From early October to mid-November, groups of volunteers help check nets in the evening.

The owls are banded by our licensed bird banders, but volunteers are invited to learn about the banding and see the release of the owls. Training is required; at this meeting learn the first steps to joining this group of volunteers.

## Wisconsin Bat Study

A study of the bats of Wisconsin is being conducted. Information is needed on the location and size of bat colonies. White nose syndrome is a fungal disease that is lethal to bats. This unprecedented disease is currently spreading toward Wisconsin and severely threatens our cave-bat populations.

If you know of large numbers of bats in caves, mines, barns, bridges, churches, schools or other buildings please contact the Wisconsin Bat Program at [DNRbats@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRbats@Wisconsin.gov) or 608-266-5216.

# At the Dunes

## Woodland Dunes Facility Rental

Woodland Dunes is a 1,200-acre oasis of hardwood and conifer forests, wetland, and prairies that lies between Manitowoc and Two Rivers. A picturesque natural setting with modern conveniences and close to two major cities, Woodland Dunes is the perfect site for your next gathering. *Note: Woodland Dunes Nature Center is an alcohol-free facility.*

### Business Meetings

Hold your next business meeting, retreat or evening event at Woodland Dunes Nature Center. The Rahmlow Marsh Haus offers a peaceful and relaxed atmosphere with wireless internet. A naturalist guided hike or pontoon ride on the West Twin River can be arranged for an additional fee. Become a corporate member at the Ecologist Level or above and receive one complimentary two-hour facility rental.

### Weddings

Woodland Dunes offers a unique natural setting for your wedding. Get married outside under the pavilion or, for smaller gatherings (30 people or fewer), you can choose the Merry Star Butterfly Garden. In case of inclement weather, the Edna Smith Room comfortably holds 70 people. The Preserve offers beautiful forests, prairies, ponds, an old barn and a brick farmhouse, making it the picture perfect setting for capturing memories of your special day.

### Facility Rentals

Picnic tables, hiking trails, a covered pavilion and the children's play area make Woodland Dunes the perfect location for gathering friends and family. Whether you wish to celebrate life or to remember it, the Nature Center offers a quiet relaxed atmosphere. Available facilities include:

**Rahmlow Marsh Haus:** Built in the late 1800s, the Rahmlow Marsh Haus offers old world charm with modern convenience. In 1990 the Edna Smith room was added to accommodate larger gatherings. Depending on arrangement, the Edna Smith Room can accommodate 40 to 70 people comfortably. The Rahmlow Marsh Haus has a kitchenette with sink, refrigerator and microwave. *NOTE: This facility does not have an oven or stove top.*

**Pavilion:** An outdoor pavilion can accommodate 50 people comfortably. A roof with sky light and open sides makes the pavilion the best of both worlds, offering a sheltered gathering space with great views.

**Nature Trails:** Eight trails allow visitors to explore the 1,200-acre Preserve. All trails are relatively level and easily hiked; they range from 1/4 mile to 2 miles in length. Two of the trails, Cattail Trail and Yellow Birch, are wheelchair accessible boardwalks. Home to 39 species of mammals, 110 species of nesting birds, 12 species of reptiles and amphibians and more than 400 plant species, you never know who you might run into.

**Little Wings Natural Play Area:** The front yard of the Rahmlow Marsh Haus is a kids' paradise. A pond, climbing area, prairie maze, sand swale, art space and fort building materials keep kids entertained for hours. A raised seating area gives parents a place to relax and keep an eye on play time.

### Fee structure:

All rentals include full use of the facilities.

During regular business hours: \$50 an hour (*Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. year round. Extended hours, April through October, 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturdays and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. the first Sunday of the month, excluding holidays.*)

Off hours rental: \$75 an hour.

Naturalist services: \$25 an hour.

Please contact Jessica Johnsrud for more information and to reserve a space: [jescicaj@woodlanddunes.net](mailto:jescicaj@woodlanddunes.net) or (920) 793-4007.

## Restoration Complications

In writing the article on page six, I learned that the disease that affects prairie dogs, sylvatic plague has reared its ugly head before. Perhaps most readers will realize that sylvatic plague in animals is also called bubonic plague in humans. History books certainly impressed me with the gruesome stories of the Black Death, that much-feared disease that took its toll in the Middle Ages. Fleas biting a sick individual would become infected with the bacterium, *Yersinia pestis*, and then would transmit the bacteria to other individuals that it would subsequently bite, including humans. Because the infection is usually lethal to those that receive the bacterium, the very thought that the disease is still in our neighborhoods is cause for great concern.

This is one of the reasons why the reintroduction of the black-footed ferret has faced fierce opposition and often anger. The farmers and ranchers living in the areas where prairie dog towns are being used to reintroduce the ferrets, have raised concern that their livestock and even themselves are next to be infected with the bacterium.

To help alleviate these fears, the prairie dog towns have been dusted with insecticides, hopefully killing the fleas, and an active program of immunizing the ferrets for the bacteria has been instituted. But, this is an enormously difficult project, since the immunization effort must be repeated over and over to protect the young ferrets that are born each season, and obviously are without protection.

Other solutions to the problem are to trade lands close to the prairie dog towns for other suitable lands that the farmers and ranchers can use, so as to keep towns and humans a safe distance from each other. As has been noted earlier in other articles, "When you tug on nature, you find the rest of the world attached." (John Muir)

Chuck Sontag

Professor Emeritus, UW-Manitowoc

# Notes from Nature



## Acorn Wishing

I came on three acorns  
triangle-patterned on the path  
and pitched them like pennies  
meant for a wishing well.  
A lucky squirrel would  
find them in the underbrush.  
They couldn't fill any cause  
of mine.

I kept the wishes, though,  
for sharing on the trail,  
and the wind took the first one,  
tossed it to a branch  
to a migrant saw-whet owl  
resting there, waiting night flight.  
Come back next year,  
the wind and I called. May  
your winter travels go well!

The second wish rippled near  
a pokey, drowsy turtle  
settling down in thick mud.  
Sleep deep, the pond whispered,  
and dream of clear waters  
and summer-sunny logs.

The third the trees claimed  
by their royal right, by fact  
of their crimson and gold  
autumn rule. I wish you  
fat rings, full chirping nests,  
trumpeting spring blooms.  
They nodded with the wind  
to acknowledge my gift,  
so I bowed and headed home.

**Jean Biegun**

*(Another Dunesletter poem is in  
the 2010-11 Wisconsin  
Department of Natural  
Resources wall calendar.)*

## Confusing Fall Plumages

A confusing variety of plumages can make bird identification more complicated in fall than in spring or summer. Many birds look different because they have changed their feathers before fall migration. Feathers become worn or broken from use and faded with age, so they are replaced at least once each year in a process called molting.

Baby songbirds develop a coat of down feathers as they are growing in their nest. The down is soon replaced by their first full coat of feathers, known as the juvenile plumage. The flight feathers of their wings and tail remain unchanged for over a year, but they molt most of their head and body feathers a few months later and assume the first winter plumage. In most songbird species, the next full molt occurs approximately one year later, after the next nesting season. Following this molt, the bird assumes the adult winter plumage. It then molts about the same time every year for the rest of its life.

Many species with brightly-colored males become duller after the post-breeding molt. In these species there may be a partial molt in late winter or early spring, in which some head and body feathers are changed to produce the bright colors of the breeding plumage. Other species, including the starling, snow bunting, and house sparrow, acquire their breeding plumage gradually in late winter by wearing off the dull-colored tips of their winter feathers.

Molting is a gradual process that takes a few weeks in small birds, longer in larger birds. As the new feathers grow from the feather follicles, they push out the old ones. Molting is symmetrical, with corresponding feathers from each side of the body being replaced at the same time. Flight feathers are molted a few at a time so the bird is always able to fly. On other parts of the body, feathers may be molted in small groups, so we may see cardinals or blue jays with their entire crests missing.

In other kinds of birds, the molt sequence and timing may be different than in songbirds. Hawks and gulls skip the post-juvenile molt, and the juvenile plumage is worn for the entire first year. Waterfowl molt in early summer and again in early fall. All their flight feathers are molted at once, so they are flightless for a short time. Some species of raptors may take two years to molt all their flight feathers, with only part of them molted each year. Some birds, such as eagles and gulls, take up to four years to reach maturity. The plumage of immature birds changes slightly with each molt until full adult plumage is acquired.

Molting is triggered by hormones and is regulated by the genetic make-up of each species. The variety of molt patterns and timing can result in finding birds in all conditions of molt during fall migration. Some may look the same as in spring, while others may be quite different. This makes birding in fall very interesting and very challenging.



**John Woodcock**

*This male cardinal's bald head may be the result of abnormal molting and is more common in juveniles.*



## Oh, Give Me a Home,

## Where the Buffalo Roam . . .

The Curtis Prairie in the UW-Madison Arboretum recently celebrated its 75-year anniversary. As the renowned prairie celebrates this milestone, Woodland Dunes is about to initiate its own prairie tradition with the opening of the Coneflower Trail through a new prairie planting in the Preserve. Prairies today cover a mere fraction of their former expanse, making both restored prairies and prairie plantings important reminders of what once was, and the incredible significance of their place in past landscapes.

When John Deere turned the sword into the plowshare, the great prairies of the west were transformed into the agricultural lands of today, reducing prairieland to less than 1 % of its original land area (see diagram 1). In Wisconsin, prairies were less widespread, but existed in the north central and southern areas of the state (see diagram 2). Remnants of the prairie landscapes still exist in Wisconsin, and careful observers can find prairie plants along the roads where the prairies once existed. Dr. Ron Schaper (a retired local dentist) carries a shovel with him when he travels, and harvests these roadside treasures, replanting them in his prairie garden adjacent to Lake Michigan and next to Kingfisher

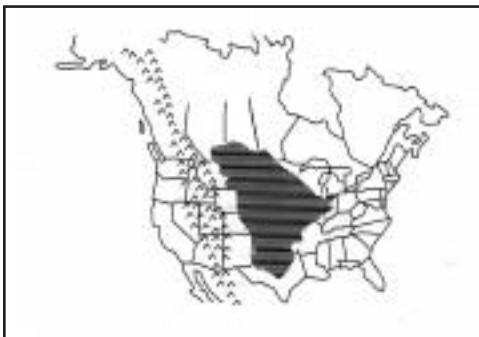


diagram 1: historical extent of US prairies

Farm. This preserves the plants, saving them from the mowing activity that is common practice along Wisconsin's roadways.

Prairies are enormously complex ecosystems, yet the number of plants in prairies is low compared to the number of plants, in, for example, the Northwoods of Wisconsin. However, the species diversity within a prairie is very high, with each plant playing a specific, important role. Because of this complexity, establishing a prairie is a very difficult process. Scattering seeds from prairie plants on bare land will not result in a prairie: plants are only one component of the ecosystem. Prairie animals and a myriad of microorganisms are also needed. It is this part of the prairie equation that makes prairie restoration, and subsequent maintenance, difficult, since the animals and microorganisms do not necessarily appear with the prairie plants. The animals pollinate the flowers, disperse the seeds, feed on the plants, carry parasites, and provide nutrients from their droppings and decomposition for the plants' continued growth. Resident creatures like turkeys and deer can fill in some of the missing roles, but all of the important tasks or jobs are not performed. Because these important roles are only partly filled, or missing altogether, the restoration process is compromised and the developing prairie ecosystem becomes stressed. These missing roles must be filled by human intervention; the stand-in who pulls weeds, poisons insect pests, and fertilizes the lands in an attempt to make up for the missing parts of these newly formed prairie landscapes.

Therefore, even if we were to seed a field that had been a prairie in the early 1800s, the new prairie would be quite different than the original, since the interactions of the new system would not be the same.

Each prairie organism performs specific tasks in the prairie ecosystem by supporting or inhibiting the growth or spread of other organisms. This is certainly nothing new to ecologists, but becomes an important

issue when working with a prairie planting such as the one the Woodland Dunes is establishing. Many organisms that are part of prairies are missing entirely, including the signature species of any prairie, the bison (*Bison bison*). Other missing animals include the blacktail prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*), Plains pocket gopher (*Geomys bursarius*), the black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*), pronghorns (*Antilocapra americana*), and myriads of insects, amphibians, reptiles and birds. Without their participation, the prairie becomes just a collection of plant species, much like a garden.

Fire is the prairie's industrial strength fertilizer, herbicide and pesticide—although rather non-selective in the last two categories. However, as with the application of all herbicides and pesticides, more than just the targeted problem species are affected. Prairie plants, with their deep and protected root systems, were least affected by the "cold" fires that quickly moved through prairie landscapes. These fires were often the product of lightning strikes, but were also created by Native Americans to drive the bison to deadly precipices or to ambush points. These fires would destroy woody plants, leaving the prairie free of trees and brush except in the riparian areas. The nutrients released by the fire were quickly returned to the soil, giving a boost to the remaining prairie plants.

These fires also destroyed insect infestations such as the "locusts" which formed swarms so huge, the skies were blackened and everything

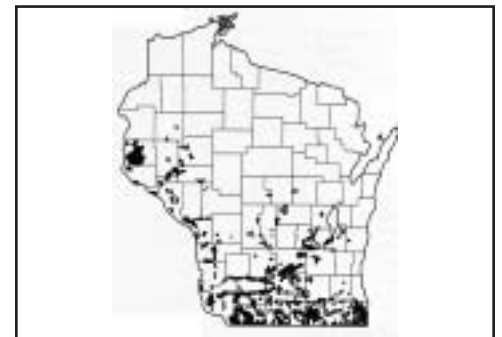


diagram 2: historical extent of Wisconsin prairies



blacktail prairie dogs

edible in their path was consumed, even the clothing on the backs of the early pioneers who tried to fight the invasion. Modern agriculture, with plows and pesticides, resulted in the ultimate demise of these pests; no “locust” invasion has been recorded in the past 100+ years.

The bison is the poster child of the prairie, representing our romantic image of the prairie. Because of its size and historical population numbers—estimated to be in the hundreds of millions—it played a major role in the prairie, dining on the grasses and pruning the shrubbery and thus maintaining the health of the ecosystem. Bison roamed throughout their range, and were often not seen for extended periods of time, only to appear and then disappear again as if they were spirits of the land. Today, only isolated areas in Canada and the U.S. have free ranging populations of bison.

The bison is the largest North American land animal, and today is represented by two living subspecies: the prairie bison, *Bison bison bison*, the animal referred to in this article, and the wood bison, *Bison bison athabasca*. Wood bison are found in the western providences of Canada and Alaska, and live in the boreal or taiga environments. Because they are adapted to more northern environments than the plains bison, they

exemplify Bergmann’s Rule: they are larger in weight than their prairie counterparts. In addition, four extinct species of bison have been identified.

Because of their size—2,000+ pounds—and their speed—up to 35 mph—few predators of the bison existed before humans came on the scene. Only the wolf, *Canis lupus* and the grizzly bear, *Ursus horribilis*, were known to prey upon bison, and even they usually took only the young or sick animals.

Bison had another role on the prairie: they were as much a part of the prairie dog towns as the prairie dogs themselves. They used the exposed and open areas to wallow in the dust, which helped to control their insect pests. The damage to plants in wallow areas led to tasty new growth, a dining treat to the initial visitors.

Blacktail prairie dogs (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) were the master architects of these wallow areas and their towns were very much like the Wild West human equivalents. In this scenario, the marauders, eager to create mayhem, were black-footed ferrets (*Mustela nigripes*). Ferrets prey upon blacktail prairie dogs, providing free population control. Other predators include golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) and prairie rattlesnakes (*Crotalus viridis*). When burrows are vacated, burrowing owls (*Athene cunicularia*) quickly fill the void, using them for their own needs and interests, making their contributions to the complexity of the ecosystem.

Although black-footed ferrets were legitimate predators, unfortunately, they helped transmit sylvatic plague, carrying it as they moved from town to town. Today it has reemerged as a serious problem. The plague is caused by the bacteria, *Yersinia pestis*, and is transmitted by the rat flea, *Xenopsylla cheopis*, that travels with a mammal host. The disease kills up to 90% of the prairie dog town residents. With the attempt to reintroduce the black-footed ferret into the remnant prairie dog towns, sylvatic plague is once again becom-



black-footed ferret

ing an issue of great concern, disrupting the introduction process. This certainly illustrates the difficulties in trying to reestablish an ecosystem.

Just as the bison is the signature species of prairie mammals, big bluestem grass (*Andropogon gerardii*) is the signature species of prairie plants. It and other grasses like Indian grass and switch grass reach heights of five to nine feet, giving eastern prairies their name of Tallgrass Prairies. Their enormous root systems penetrate many feet into the soil, and their system of rhizomes or underground stems stabilize the soil. It once created a rich, deep topsoil that is the thickest topsoil ever recorded. As big bluestem grass matures, it takes on a blue/purple tint, giving the grassland a smoky appearance as the grasses blow and wave with the wind. These grasses were a good nutritional resource for bison because of their relatively high protein content. They also provided cover for prairie chickens (*Tympanuchus cupido*), who ate the seeds along with insects, especially grasshoppers.

As grasses grow tall in competition for space, sunlight and other resources, they create challenges for the other members of the prairie community. Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*), originally found only in the prairies, perched on the backs of bison, a good vantage point for find-

big  
bluestem



## Coneflower Trail

ing food, drink and mates. But, because bison constantly moved across the prairies, cowbirds had little time to build nests, incubate eggs and fledge their young. To meet this challenge, cowbirds replaced their traditional life style with one that was better suited to this Gypsy way of life: To accom-

plish the reproductive part of their life cycle, they used other species of birds to incubate their eggs and fledge their young.

Other species of birds who made the transition from wood to prairie dwellers changed their courtship patterns. Since singing is a bird's way of advertising for a mate, they chose a perch where the charms of the songs can best be heard. However, blades of grass, the tallest structures around, lack sufficient structure for the birds to perch upon. To solve this dilemma, birds like the lark bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*), sing on the wing, incorporating an aerial display into the act, much like our American goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*). Other species of bird, like the greater prairie chicken, a lek species, perform elaborate ritualistic dances on pretend territories, which are staked out in the open areas of the prairie in the very early spring. The dense grasses that develop, and the chickens' cryptic coloration permit cover for the nesting activity and the raising of the very precocious young. To make sure they do not become someone's dinner while preoccupied with their courtship dance, the horizon must be visible in all directions so predators can be seen, and appropriate action taken.

The prairie planting at Woodland Dunes is rich in suitable plants, but very few of the other players important to the management and life of the prairie are present. Because they are missing, our prairie planting will need continued attention and work. We will use fire to help manage the invasive plants, but with most of the animals missing, the pruning will be left to the human work force. But, what could be a nicer tribute to Woodland Dunes' commitment to preservation, than to establish a prairie that celebrates and preserves what once was? And, with committed Woodland Dunes helpers, we will celebrate our own anniversaries in the tradition established at UW-Madison's Arboretum and the John Curtis Prairie.

Perhaps Ralph Waldo Emerson captured the feeling best when he declared that "The landscape belongs to the person who looks at it." This is abundantly clear when one gazes on the prairie landscape that Woodland Dunes is restoring. Please come, look and enjoy our own "home on the range" treasure. But sadly, you will not see the buffalo roam.

**Chuck Sontag, Professor Emeritus, UW-Manitowoc**

### Our Newest Trail

A blaze of gold, sprinkles of cobalt blue, deep greens, rich browns, all of these delight the eye as you hike along Coneflower Trail, the latest addition to Woodland Dunes' trail system. Brightly colored butterflies flash their wings in the mid-day sun: monarchs, sulphurs, tiger swallowtails and more. Yet even while your eyes feast on the pure, rich colors of the prairie, your attention will be drawn again and again to the insect chorus that echoes across the entire prairie. Cricket songs predominate; if you listen carefully you may pick out bird songs and the calls of other insects.

In late summer and early autumn, the prairie planting is at its most beautiful. It's not a subtle landscape: colors are bold, sounds are loud, and the grasses reach high. As you walk from the parking area to the deck, you'll see labeled prairie plants. A dozen or so of the most typical were planted and labeled to use as an educational tool. Then watch for them growing wild as you hike the trail. You may recognize some of them as plants that grow in your garden, either as species plants or their more sophisticated cultivars.

The path encircles a large part of the prairie, leading from the observation deck around to the north through tall grasses and flowering plants, then slightly uphill to the west, where drier soil means shorter plants. Swing south through the shortest plants of all, and finally back east past the pond to return to the observation deck.

Along the way, sunflowers of several species—cup plant, rosinweed, and the like—flash their golden faces and spikes of delicate vervain, lavender liatris and bright blue lobelia make exclamation points among the grasses. Three grasses stand out: Indian grass, Canada wild rye and big bluestem with its turkey-foot seed heads. There's also little bluestem, shorter in stature, but just as lovely. These grasses are the basis of the tallgrass prairie, which this planting imitates. As the years pass, it will increase in complexity, and come closer to resembling the prairies of the past.

Soon school children will be walking—and running—along this trail as part of our newest environmental education program. Teacher-naturalist training is in the works, signs are being produced, and a rack card will attract visitors. Please visit, and enjoy the newest Woodland Dunes trail.

**Susan Knorr, Editor**







# Kidland D“oo”nes

A Dunesletter page for kids and kids at heart! by Belinda and Teresa Zoller



## Barn Owls: Vanishing Hunters

If you've ever heard a haunting screech from an old barn or a bunch of woods near your house, you've probably heard the barn owl. Barn owls look very different from other owls because of their white feathers. They are excellent hunters who eat mostly rodents, like voles, rats, and shrews.

Just as their name suggests, barn owls frequently build their nests in barns and old deserted buildings. Farmers loved them in their barns even more than cats because of their skill in catching rodents.

Over the years, pesticides and rodent poisons have killed off many of the barn owls. Now they are considered an endangered species in Wisconsin.

So whenever you see a barn owl or hear its haunting call, consider yourself lucky.

I'm going back to school!



## The Wisest Owl

While browsing Microsoft Clip Art for pictures of owls, I was rather frustrated to find that the majority of them were cute little cartoons donning graduation caps and geeky glasses; nothing serious for a nature article. Seeing this trend led me to the question: why do we tend to describe owls as being wise? Not surprisingly, the answer turned up as I learned more about owls—specifically, the habits of the eastern screech owl.

First, this owl is quite versatile. It lives in city parks as well as in forests without attracting public notice. Like other owl species, it seeks pre-built hiding places in trees and buildings, but is also open to using man-made nest boxes—perfect for your study.

Second, the screech owl's disguises

are ingenious. Its important-looking downy tufts and cat-like yellow eyes might fool the casual observer into thinking it is a tiny great horned owl. Additionally, they occur in different colors; about one-third of the population has reddish-brown, brick-colored plumage, while the rest are a charcoal grey-brown.

Third, its call is particularly distinctive. As its name suggests, it does not hoot; rather, it has a medium-high pitched stutter. If you clap your hand over your mouth repeatedly while making an “ooh” sound, you too can sound like a screech owl.

Through its unique and adaptable lifestyle, the screech owl may well be considered the wisest owl of them all.



## Dissect An Owl Pellet... Try It!

When an owl catches a rodent such as a shrew or a mouse, the indigestible bones and fur are separated from the nutrients that the meat provides. The fur and bones are then coughed up in a formed pellet. By examining such a pellet, you can learn more about the owl's diet and rodent anatomy in general. It's not a good idea to go look for owl pellets yourself—they're wet and nasty!—but there are other ways to study these fantastic curiosities.

1. You can buy them. Online retailers such as Owl Brand Discovery Kits ([www.obdk.com](http://www.obdk.com)) sell individually baked and foiled pellets for just a few dollars. With proper lab equipment you can manually dissect and put together the skeleton of the prey.
2. A mess-free alternative can be found in virtual dissections. One good online resource is [kidwings.com](http://kidwings.com), which guides you through the assembly of a mouse skeleton from a “pellet.” Lesson plans and instructional aids are also available on the Internet.

Sources: *Wild Wisconsin Notebook*, by James Buchholz; [allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org); [owlpages.com](http://owlpages.com); [kidwings.com](http://kidwings.com)

# The Living Classroom



*The Volunteer Appreciation Lunch was a chance for the staff to thank all of Woodland Dunes' volunteers for the important work they do.*

## Call for Education Volunteers

We are getting close to that wonderful time of year when school field trips start and kids begin visiting Woodland Dunes. More than any other time of year, we need you! Not only does the loss of children's contact with the natural world negatively affect growth and development of the whole child, it sets the stage for a continuing loss of the natural environment. New studies indicate that even more important than being in the outdoors is having an adult role model to demonstrate an interest in and excitement about the natural world. If you can volunteer for our upcoming education programs, you can be one of these important role models. Please contact Kelly at the Nature Center—(920) 793-4007 or [kellye@woodlanddunes.org](mailto:kellye@woodlanddunes.org)—to learn about the programs and the training we offer. \

## Check out our menu of classes!

### Little Hike on the Prairie

The prairie across from Cottonwood Trail will be in full bloom this fall and a new program for second graders will be underway. The prairie program runs in September at the same time as Cottonwood Trail. It will focus on the relationship between insects, plants and the animals of the prairie.

Small schools may bring BOTH first and second grade students to Woodland Dunes and participate in both programs!

### Cottonwood Trail

This sensory tour introduces students to the plants and animals of Woodland Dunes. As they interact with nature along this hike, students will become increasingly aware of the smells, sounds, sights and feel of a forest.

After this introduction to the natural world, kids are eager to learn more!

### The Forest Around Us

This program introduces students to a forest ecosystem. While exploring a forest that is part of Woodland Dunes, students will determine what elements are necessary for a healthy forest to function and learn why forest ecosystems are important.

### Owling 101

Celebrate the migration of Wisconsin's smallest owl. This interactive program introduces important ecological concepts while engaging students in hands-on learning. Migration permitting, live bird demonstrations make this program a favorite of students and teachers alike.

### Pressed Leaves

**Materials:** iron, towel, wax paper

Place a leaf between two layers of Wax paper and then cover with a towel.

Press the towel with a warm iron, being sure to iron over the entire area of wax paper. This will seal the leaf between the two layers of wax paper.

Afterward, you can cut out each leaf, leaving a narrow margin of wax paper around the entire edge of the leaf.

Punch holes through the wax paper at the top margin of the leaf and hang the pressed leaf.

Use several leaves to make a hanging leaf mobile.



*A class from Encompass gathers around the art table in Little Wings natural playground*

## Summer Fun

This summer 1,045 kids and adults enjoyed a Woodland Dunes program. A scavenger hunt where students were tested on not how fast they completed the hunt but how much they learned while competing. It was the focus of the summer program.

## Fall Fun with Kids

Explore the new Coneflower Trail! Stop by the nature center to pick up some oversized socks, insect collection jars and nets. The socks will help you find seeds and the jars will help you see your insect friends up close.

## Fall Leaf Activities:

Hike through the forest and collect a couple fallen leaves. Encourage kids to only take leaves that are already on the ground. Then ask some questions. Can you find the tree that the leaf came from? Study the different leaves that you found:

What are some difference between the leaves?

What do the leaves have in common?

Do any leaves have teeth?

Do they have hairs?

What do they feel like?

Who found the biggest leaf? The smallest?

Have any leaves been eaten by insects?

How can you tell?

Can they trace the veins on their leaves with their fingers?





Get your kids exploring and asking questions about the natural world!

**Kelly Eskew-Vorron**




**Assistant Director and Education Coordinator**

# What's happening at Woodland Dunes



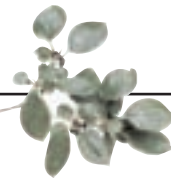


The dates given are based on data from previous years, but will vary depending on actual conditions.

			Flying ant swarms are often seen after a rainfall.		<b>PICNIC ON THE PRAIRIE</b>	Shorebirds flock along Lake Michigan as migrating birds pass through.
			1	2	3	4
Goldenrods and asters bloom on Dunes' prairie.	Watch for monarch migration along lakeshore. Peak flying time is mid day.			Ruby-throated hummingbirds migrate.		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
			First day of autumn; full Harvest Moon.	Look for red maples, one of the first trees to turn color, on Yellow Birch Trail		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	The leaves of green ash, cottonwood and quaking aspen turn yellow. Hike the Ice Age Trail to see them.					
26	27	28	29	30		

## September

						Dark-eyed juncos begin arriving.
					1	2
						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
White-tailed buck make scrapes and rubs through November.			Frogs begin burrowing into mud for the winter.			Owl Fest 
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Hike the Ice Age Trail to enjoy the fall color	Red-winged blackbirds depart.	Tamaracks change color—visit Conifer Trail.			Full Hunters' Moon
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		White-throated sparrow depart.			Enchanted Forest (Sat), a night hike to meet the misunderstood animals of the night	
Halloween	24				29	30
31	25	26	27	28		

## October

	An occasional worn butterfly may be seen on a sunny day, even in the winter.		Little brown bats depart.		Best time to control invasive buckthorn (green leaves)	
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			White-tail deer rut in peak			Harvest Dinner
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
				Gun deer season, Woodland Dunes trails closed		
End of sandhill crane migration						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Full Beaver Moon	Ring-necked pheasants begin to winter in cattails.			Turkeys in hiding		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
						
28	29	30				

## November

# Garden Wars



*a homeowner who counted  
on timestillstand*

## Timestillstand

**A**gatha Christie, long-time queen of cozy mysteries, invented this portmanteau word in the spirit of the German language, to describe a place that never seemed to change, no matter how much time passed between the protagonist's visits. (*By the Pricking of My Thumbs*, copyright 1968) I often feel that this is exactly what I am trying to do with my garden: design, select

plants, install plants, and then spend all my resources trying to keep it exactly as I envisioned it in the design stage. In other words: timestillstand.

Fighting this urge is like fighting human nature. We humans are forever trying to stop, or at least slow the flow of time, although we know it will never happen. (We're not going to get into time theory here, because that leads to quantum mechanics, which gives me a headache.) Even so, we continue to expend our efforts to stop time. In our gardens, we prune trees and shrubs, dig out seedlings, and grub out offsets. Then we re-edge garden beds, divide perennials, and deadhead everything in sight.

And nature fights back, sending out shoots, dropping seeds everywhere, and completely ignoring our plans. In theory, I like the idea of designing with nature, but when it comes right down to it, nature doesn't want the plan I want. Nature wants to take over, sending in runners of Canada goldenrod, wild raspberries, red osier dogwood, quaking aspen; seeds of forbs, vines, shrubs, trees; and even those frustrating invasive plants. Plants grow, mature and die. Nature has no conscience whatsoever; survival of the fittest is the only rule it observes.

Did you ever note how many authors use battle terms when they talk about gardening? It turns out that what looks like a peaceful occupation is really a pitched battle, a battle that requires all our wits and tools. No wonder there are books advising you on suitable exercise routines to prepare for the gardening season, and the proper way to attack weeding and other garden jobs.

Recognizing the fact that gardeners also have a natural life cycle, garden writers have refocused from how to create the perfect garden to how to create a low-maintenance garden. While they are full of good suggestions, they don't

deal with the basic problem: a garden is a living thing that changes over time. No matter how many low maintenance plants and work-saving strategies you incorporate, nature will take over the minute you let your guard down.

There's no timestillstand in my garden here at Winghaven. Already I can see the birch trees are getting large enough to shade out the peonies in the entry walk; the hosta have reached their full potential and while they are gorgeous, they are now out of scale with the Japanese maples; and a nasty little patch of snow-on-the-mountain is spreading out and overwhelming the Asiatic lilies. Everything seems to grow bigger than promised by those plant hang tags or catalog descriptions. It's clear to me: nature is winning the battle. Daily I must decide how to expend my very limited resources (or deploy my troops, if you prefer to continue the battle analogy).

Nor is there timestillstand at Woodland Dunes. Do we keep the Preserve as it was in 1970 when it was put into conservancy, or do we let natural succession take place? If all 1,200 acres end up as woods, what happens to the birds that lived in the open fields? But stopping time takes resources at Woodland Dunes, just as it does at Winghaven. Do you use these resources to burn the prairie, or to plant new trees? There's only so much money and so many staff and volunteer hours. How to spend limited resources is the question that always must be asked—and answered.

Woodland Dunes, being a nonprofit organization, has a life beyond the existing staff and board. It is set up to protect land in perpetuity. Although the specific approach to land management may change over the years, the land will be preserved in a natural state, be it prairie, woods or wetlands. Time **will** stand still, if that's what the Board directs.

Winghaven, like other private gardens, is at the mercy of time. Once the original time-stopper (that's me) is gone, nature is once more in control. Eventually, the careful lines will blur, the best adapted plants will take over, and the garden I made will disappear. Perhaps sometime in the future, garden archeologists like those who recreated The Lost Gardens of Heligan in Cornwall will revive the sleeping plants and renew the design. More likely, it will end up like the old homesteads we see around the county, the house gone, and only a few old lilacs and vintage yellow lemon lilies to mark where a gardener once labored.

**Susan Knorr, Editor**

Carolyn Singer, author of *Deer in My Garden*, experimented with nitrogen fertilization, and found deer preferred plants that were fertilized to identical but unfertilized plants. This may explain why plants newly purchased from nurseries, which are often pumped up with fertilizer, seem to attract predation. Chemists have suggested that deer enjoy the flavor, which is similar to the much-loved salt. Decreasing your use of fertilizer actually may result in bigger (non-deer-pruned) plants.

# Birds

## Aegolius Bird Club

The Aegolius Bird Club meets at Woodland Dunes the second Tuesday each month at 7:00 p.m. The club also makes field trips each month on Saturdays to places around our area that are rich in bird life. Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, but you need not be a member to attend meetings or to participate in field trips. For more information, call John or Julie Woodcock at (920) 683-3878.

### Bird Club Field Trips 2010

**September 18:** Meet at the wayside on Hwy. 42 at 8:00 a.m. to look for fall migrants along the Ice Age Trail in Woodland Dunes.

**October:** No field trip due to Owlfest

**November 13:** Meet at UW-Manitowoc B Parking Lot at 1:00 p.m. to look for loons and waterfowl at Fischer Creek, Kingfisher Farm, and Cleveland.

**December:** No field trip due to winter bird counts

### Injured Birds and Animals

If you find an injured or abandoned animal, please DO NOT bring it to Woodland Dunes. Instead, call WOW's pager number, 323-5609, and leave your name, telephone number and address. They will return your call, most likely within 15 minutes, and either come to pick the animal up, or instruct you as to the best action to take.

### Adopt an Owl

For \$25 you can adopt a saw-whet owl caught and banded at Woodland Dunes. You will receive a certificate of adoption with the band number of your owl, a photo of a saw-whet owl, and a form for recording recaptures. Funds raised from this program will support the mission of Woodland Dunes. Please call for details.



### Bird Seed in the Shop

Woodland Dunes has teamed up with Country Visions Cooperative to offer several types of bird seed for sale. We carry large bags of black oil sunflower seed and also a basic millet mix, and niger (thistle seed). Birds appreciate these high energy foods

### We Care Donation Program

Want to make an easy contribution to Woodland Dunes that doesn't cost you a cent, and takes only a few minutes? Sign up for the "We Care" program at Pick & Save. This program helps nonprofit organizations raise funds through supportive shoppers who use their Advantage Plus Savers Club card. Each time shoppers uses their card, the nonprofit organization of their choice receives a cash rebate. The amount the organization receives is a percentage of the total amount of "We Care" dollars that Pick 'n Save contributes.

To register for the We Care program and begin earning rebates for Woodland Dunes, visit the Customer Service Desk at the Two Rivers Pick 'n Save store.

## Woodland Dunes Summer Bird Survey - 2010

The new prairie planting is being rediscovered by the meadowland bird species that have declined in recent years.

Birds recorded this year include eastern meadowlark, bobolink, grasshopper sparrow, horned lark and dickcissel.

The water in our marsh is regulated by the level of Lake Michigan; since that water is still low, so are bird populations.

Canada Goose .....	56	Red-breasted Nuthatch .....	6
Wood Duck .....	3	White-breasted Nuthatch .....	7
American Black Duck .....	1	Brown Creeper .....	1
Mallard .....	15	House Wren .....	91
Blue-winged Teal .....	12	Winter Wren .....	1
Hooded Merganser .....	2	Sedge Wren .....	4
Ring-necked Pheasant .....	3	Marsh Wren .....	3
Wild Turkey .....	10	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher .....	1
Double-crested Cormorant .....	9	Eastern Bluebird .....	2
Great Blue Heron .....	11	Veery .....	36
Green Heron .....	2	Wood Thrush .....	1
Black-crowned Night Heron .....	1	American Robin .....	114
Turkey Vulture .....	1	Gray Catbird .....	35
Osprey .....	5	Brown Thrasher .....	1
Northern Harrier .....	1	European Starling .....	24
Cooper's Hawk .....	1	Cedar Waxwing .....	9
American Kestrel .....	1	Blue-winged Warbler .....	1
Sora .....	2	Yellow Warbler .....	17
Sandhill Crane .....	4	Chestnut-sided Warbler .....	1
Killdeer .....	7	Black-thr. Green Warbler .....	2
Spotted Sandpiper .....	1	Black and White Warbler .....	1
Wilson's Snipe .....	1	American Redstart .....	15
American Woodcock .....	1	Ovenbird .....	34
Ring-billed Gull .....	3	Northern Waterthrush .....	8
Herring Gull .....	6	Mourning Warbler .....	17
Caspian Tern .....	1	Common Yellowthroat .....	50
Rock Pigeon .....	23	Scarlet Tanager .....	1
Mourning Dove .....	5	Eastern Towhee .....	5
Black-billed Cuckoo .....	3	Chipping Sparrow .....	2
Great Horned Owl .....	1	Clay-colored Sparrow .....	6
Chimney Swift .....	10	Field Sparrow .....	3
Ruby-throated Hummingbird .....	4	Savannah Sparrow .....	9
Belted Kingfisher .....	4	Grasshopper Sparrow .....	4
Red-bellied Woodpecker .....	9	Song Sparrow .....	70
Downy Woodpecker .....	8	Swamp Sparrow .....	11
Hairy Woodpecker .....	11	White-throated Sparrow .....	1
Northern Flicker .....	15	Northern Cardinal .....	40
Pileated Woodpecker .....	1	Rose-breasted Grosbeak .....	1
Eastern Wood Pewee .....	3	Indigo Bunting .....	19
Alder Flycatcher .....	12	Dickcissel .....	7
Willow Flycatcher .....	11	Bobolink .....	11
Eastern Phoebe .....	1	Red-winged Blackbird .....	278
Great Crested Flycatcher .....	25	Eastern Meadowlark .....	12
Eastern Kingbird .....	2	Common Grackle .....	23
Blue-headed Vireo .....	1	Brown-headed Cowbird .....	25
Warbling Vireo .....	3	Baltimore Oriole .....	6
Red-eyed Vireo .....	42	House Finch .....	10
Blue Jay .....	22	American Goldfinch .....	65
American Crow .....	38	House Sparrow .....	15
Horned Lark .....	1		
Purple Martin .....	2		
Tree Swallow .....	28		
No. Rough-winged Swallow .....	8		
Cliff Swallow .....	9		
Barn Swallow .....	46		
Black-capped Chickadee .....	31		

1,675 individuals; 105 species

**Bernie Brouchoud,  
Environmental Educator**

# Thank You



*The following reflect gifts, donations and memberships received through August 27, 2010.*

## New Members

Carl and Michele Black  
Michelle Drossert  
Ann and Patrick Grady  
Martin T. Gregory  
John and Julie Schewe

## Memorials

*In memory of Edna Christina Keboe Knight*

Doris Magyar and Kenneth Magyar

*In Memory of Walter Vogl*

Aegolius Bird Club  
William and Pamela Krieger  
Modesta M. Olson  
Joseph and Beverly Vareka

*In memory of Elenor Boettger*

Don and Helen Bleser

*In memory of Paul Karrmann*

Mary Kay and Charles Dodson

*In Memory of Henry Rusboldt:*

John and Shirley Barnes  
Tom and Penny Graham  
Mary Claire Mullins  
Pat Malmanger  
Marcheske, Weld, Riley, Prens & Ricci  
Edith, Tom and Diane McCallum  
Modesta Olson  
James and Kathleen Robinson  
Rusboldt Family  
Don and Mary Lee Schweiger  
Carole Weld  
Sharon Wojta  
Peter and Jeanette Writt  
Rachel Zik  
Lucy Zeldenrust

*In memory of Barbara Savage and*

*Donald Merkel*

Anonymous

*In Memory of Shirley Suettinger-*

*Potter:*

Don and Helen Bleser

## Donations

John W. and Laurel J. Alyea  
Merrie Star and Gregory Scheuer  
Two Rivers Kiwanis Club

## Guarantor Renewals

David and Renee Evans  
Dr. and Mrs. Harold Just  
Armond and Ione Kueter  
Kenton and Donna Langman  
Llyod Schmitt  
Louise Trickle  
Lucy Zeldenrust

## Raffle Donations

Tom & Betsy Kocourek  
*Kayak*  
Browns of Two Rivers  
*Spotting Scope*

## Matching Funds

Dominion

## Wish List

A canopy for our admissions table, gently used art materials: crayons, kid friendly scissors, nature stamps and ink pads, old egg cartons, glitter, usable markers, and chenille sticks (pipe cleaners).

## Thank you, Volunteers

### Front Desk Volunteers

Lyn Brouchoud  
Donna Drexler  
Jenene Garey  
Sean Haggerty  
Joan Hanson  
Dick Luchsinger  
Susie Polk  
Lucy Zeldenrust

### Summer Program Volunteers

Jeannie Miller  
Lou Ann Gray  
Susie Polk  
Linda Jelinek  
Cayla Matte  
Geri Berkovitz  
Jessica Johnsrud

### Butterfly Festival Volunteers!

Mary Ellen Beebe  
Lee Brey  
Fran Brinkman  
Judy Bull  
Joanne Gregorski  
Joan Hanson  
Emma Hogenson  
Chris Jagedinski  
Emma Knickelbine  
Ellen Lewellen  
Doris Magyar  
Cheryl Melberg  
Tracy Mohr  
Linda Mumpy  
Bonnie O'Leske  
Susie Polk  
Ann Shebesta  
Pat Wiegert  
Barb Vorrone  
John Woodcock  
Julie Woodcock

## Corporate Members

Trailblazer - \$1,000 or more  
Explorer \$500 - \$999  
Ecologist \$300 - \$499  
Conservator \$151 - \$299  
Defender \$50 - \$150

### Explorer Level

Bank First National  
Browns of Two Rivers  
Fricke Printing Services, Inc

### Ecologist Level

Crafts, Inc

### Conservator Level

Foster Needle Co. Inc  
Investors Community Bank  
Lakeshore Express, Inc  
Lakeside Foods, Inc  
Red Arrow  
Products Company LLC  
Vinton Construction  
Woodland Face Veneer

### Defender Level

Associated Bank of Manitowoc  
Carron Net Company, Inc  
Cawley Company  
Hamann Construction Co.  
Heresite Protective Coatings  
Ihlenfeld, Skatrud, & Anderson, Inc  
Jagemann Stamping Company  
Kurtz's, Inc  
Malley Printing Company  
Maritime Insurance Group, Inc  
Northern Labs, Inc  
Schaus Roofing & Mechanical  
Schenck, SC  
Schuette's Heating & Air Conditioning  
Twin River Turf

For information about becoming a Corporate Member, please contact Jessica at Woodland Dunes.



*Members of the Appalachia Service Project Group UCC built the tree deck in Little Wings.*

# Fund Drive

The following reflect fund drive donations received through August 27, 2010.

Amvets Post 99  
Elma and James Anderson  
Lindy and Tom Backus  
Ron and Mary Balzan  
Sylvia Barbarich  
Barca Auto, LLC  
Scott A. Barner  
Bill and Barb Bartleson  
Eric and Renee Baryenbruch  
Pat Bast  
Eugene and Pamela Bazan  
Tom and Audrey Bean  
Harold and Frances Beckman  
Joseph M. and  
Kathleen A. Bernhart  
Don and Helen Bleser  
Gary and Christine Blimel  
Robert and Deborah Bonk  
Virginia C. Brandt  
Dale and Judith Brassler  
Reggie and Kim Brault  
Ned and Janet Breuer  
Frances Brinkman  
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Brouchoud  
Ruth Bushman  
Gerald and Nancy Buth  
Dorothe J. Casavant

John Cashman and Mary Govier  
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Censky  
Ted and Jana Ciardo  
George and Betty Close  
Catherine and Kenneth Daum  
Bill and Mary Dean  
Wayne and Sandra Denfeld  
John E. Doctor  
Thomas and Judith Dokey  
Patrick Downey  
Hazel P. Eisenmann  
Carol Elfner  
Holly and Roy Engelland  
Richard and Helen Ertman  
David and Judy Eskew  
Daniel Forbes  
Jessica and Edgar Foster  
Edson Foster Jr.  
Robert Frank  
Dr. Robert A. Gahl  
Jenene and Michael Garey  
Lou Ann and Henry Gray  
Glen and Joan Hanson  
Jane Harker  
Salome Haupt  
Hawkins, Ash, Baptie and Co.  
Michael K. Heier

Grace T. Hess  
James and Mary Jo Hoftiezer  
Nancy and William Jagemann  
Jim Jansky  
Jessica and Jacob Johnsrud  
Henry M. and Barbara Katz  
Mark Klaiber  
Jim Knickelbine  
Judith Knickelbine  
Mary E. Knickelbine  
Karen Koebel  
Janet, Jeff and Carry Kohn  
Jeff and Tina Kvitek  
Tim Leahy  
Eugene and Katherine LeClair  
Katherine and Steven Leitner  
Louise LeRoy  
Karen and David Loritz  
Nancy Ludwig  
Constance Lutz  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lyman  
Nic Lyons  
William and Julie Malliett  
Carol Martin  
Donald and June McLean  
Gerald Meister  
Stephen Miller

Mona Moen  
Joretta Mountford  
Shirley Mrotek  
Philip and Susan Murtaugh  
George E. Naidl  
Erwin J. Naidl  
Robert and Catherine Nelson  
Jeannie M. Neuser  
Carol Nystrom  
Modesta Olson  
Jeff and Judith Orlopp  
Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Pauly  
Gerald E. Peck  
Raymond Pollen  
Alvin Rabe  
Linda Racinowski  
Jerrel Ralph  
Vicki L. Rathack  
Tom and Judith Rauschenberger  
Roger and Janice Rezachek  
Roger and Jeanne Ringmeier  
Bruce and Beth Robinson  
Robert and Betty Rosinsky  
Robert W. Rosinsky  
Henry and Edith Rusboldt  
Herb and Dorothy Schmalz  
Kay Schroeder

Ms. Lorraine Schuette  
Donald and Joyce Sheahan  
Robert and Janet Silva  
John and Teresa Sisel  
Robert Sisel  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Smith  
Florence Spindler  
Ronda Stanzel  
Carol and Paul Steinbrecher  
Elizabeth Sterrenburg  
Floyd and Pauline Strohfheldt  
Marion Strzyzewski  
Doris Schuette Stueck  
Florence Teteak  
Jack and Joanne Troupe  
Rozanne Vandeurzen  
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Vesely  
Bill and Barbara Vorrone  
Fran and Pat Waverly  
Gina and John Welch  
Jim Welnetz  
Carol and Dan Wergin  
Isobel Wilcox  
Howard and Betty Wilsman  
Thomas and Ann Winter  
Roger Wykes II  
Eleanor Zoerb

## A Place to be Proud of

We are always delighted when you, our members, bring your visiting friends and family to Woodland Dunes. There's so much to show them here, and it seems like each year we make this 1,200 acres more visitor friendly. This year we're opening a new trail to give everyone access to the prairie planting. Of course, parts of the Preserve are off limits during bird nesting season, and others during gun deer season, but for the most part, Woodland Dunes is a very accessible place. There is no charge to hike the trails, stroll through the Butterfly Garden or examine the exhibits in the Nature Center. Even the prices we charge for events and programs are as low as we can make them and still cover our expenses. While we have to pay our bills, we want this natural gem to be available to everyone. And that's why we ask you to contribute to the fund drive. In a way, it's a "choose your price" system. Some people truly can't afford to give very much, and that's fine. We're sure they will when they can. Others can and do support us very generously. We are truly grateful to everyone who becomes a member, contributes to the fund drive, or slips a dollar or two into the contribution jar.

**Please invest in your future by supporting Woodland Dunes.**



The Little Wings art table lets kids create art with sticks, stones and pine cones

**I wish to support Woodland Dunes with the following donation:**

**\$10** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$25** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$50** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$100** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$200** \_\_\_\_\_ **other**

**Name (please print)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to Woodland Dunes and return this form with your donation to: Woodland Dunes, PO Box 486, Two Rivers, WI 54241-0486**

We apologize for any errors or omissions in this issue. Please let us know, and we will print a correction in the next issue of The Dunesletter.

# Woodland Dunes

## Become a member!

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

- \$25 Individual
- \$35 Family
- \$50 Patron
- \$100 Contributor

### Guarantors

- \$250 Conservator
- \$500 Benefactor
- \$1,000 Steward
- \$5,000 Guardian

Please send this form and your tax-deductible donation to Woodland Dunes today.

## Board of Directors

### Officers

Bob Weinert

*Chairman*

Don DeBruyn

*Vice Chairman*

Troy Christiansen

*Treasurer*

Lyn Brouchoud

*Secretary*

### Board Members

Helen Bleser

Ed Brey

Robert Gahl

Tom Kocourek

Donna Langman

Ellen Lewellen

Charles Sontag

Beverly Vareka

John Woodcock

Lucy Zeldenrust

## Headquarters

Hwy. 310 west of Two Rivers

### Hours

Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday:

Summer • 9 a.m. to noon

Winter • by appt. or for events

Hiking trails open year round

Phone (920) 793-4007

nature@woodlanddunes.org

www.woodlanddunes.org

### STAFF

Executive Director: Jim Knickelbine

Assistant Director/Education Coordinator

Kelly Eskew Vorrone

Development & Marketing Coordinator

Jessica Johnsrud

Administrative Assistant: Geri Berkovitz

Environmental Educator: Bernie Brouchoud

The Dunesletter is published quarterly by Woodland Dunes  
Nature Center and Preserve, Inc. ISBN 1933-8961

Susan Knorr, Editor

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Mantowoc, WI  
54220  
Permit No. 448

Woodland Dunes Nature Center  
P.O. Box 486  
Two Rivers, WI 54241-0486  
woodlanddunes.com  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

