

DUNESLETTER

Summer 2024 | Volume 196

EDUCATION

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Nature photography by Nancy Nabak unless otherwise noted.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the beginning of summer! The beautiful awakening of plants and animals is well on the way to another year of growth. Each year I am delighted to experience the rebirth of spring ephemerals such as star flowers, bunchberries, trilliums, and spring beauties. And then there are the amazing and often overlooked flowering of trees- you need to pay extra close attention to catch some of these delicate The Forget Me Not Creek Restoration Project experienced some delays and permitting requirements that have moved its implementation to the late summer and fall of this year. We were successful in acquiring our fifth US Forest Service grant. This grant will begin in 2025. It will help improve the habitat for rusty patched bumble bees via a nine-acre deer ex-

closure (i.e. keep the deer out), treating invasives,

flowers-not to mention they are often out of our reach. We have had wonderful and busy spring into

summer season. Our contractor, Stantec, conducted a prescribed burn

on the Henry Wetland Preserve

located on the west side of Woodland Drive. The purpose of the burn was to reduce the amount of thatch build up, to facilitate the management of invasives and some woody plants, and to stimulate growth of native prairie species. I encourage you to hike the trail-now named Blazing Star Trail- either on your own or join one of the scheduled hikes.

We hosted a rummage sale in late April, which enabled us to create space for equipment and building boardwalks in the barn area, as well as finding new homes for items we just were not using anymore. Thank you to all who came out for the sale. We really enjoyed meeting and talking with everyone. And yes, we still have some great rocks and fossils for sale in the gift shop!

"Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you."

~ Frank Lloyd Wright

Leafing Oak. Photo by Sue Crowley

and planting herbaceous understory plants as well as some trees and shrubs. As with previous USFS grants, summer interns will get to experience all the beauty of Woodland Dunes while assisting with this great project.

We continue to celebrate our 50th Anniversary with 50 Hikes for 50 Years, and our Open House was held on May 17 - right before the 82nd Bird Migration Breakfast!

We could not function well without dedicated volunteers, whether at the front desk, in the butterfly garden or out on the trails. You will see some boardwalk improvements, such as widening of trails or fixing damage from a few of the high wind events. Volunteer-time and effort made all these projects happen. Thank you for your time and talents to make our Nature Center a great place to be. Come out and visit us often because there is always something new to see and experience.

~ Sue Crowley, executive director



Woodland Dunes is an important stopover site - a stopover site is a place where migrating birds can rest, refuel, and find shelter before they continue on their journey. Many bird species migrate across and along the Great Lakes, our close proximity to Lake Michigan makes our preserve an excellent spot for birds to rest and find some food. To see what bird species visit during migration, Woodland Dunes conducts bird surveys during the spring and fall seasons. We go to specific points across the preserve weekly to count what birds we see/hear during a 10-minute time frame. In addition to those specific surveys, we will often record what bird species we see/hear while we are out working in the preserve. This spring we encountered 100 species here at Woodland Dunes!

~ Kennedy Zittel, naturalist

American Crow Clay-colored Sparrow American Goldfinch Common Grackle American Kestrel Common Loon American Robin Common Raven American Tree Sparrow Common Tern American White Pelican Common Yellowthroat American Woodcock Cooper's Hawk **Bald Eagle** Dark-eyed Junco Barn Swallow Double-crested Cormorant **Belted Kingfisher** Downy Woodpecker Black-and-white Warbler Eastern Meadowlark Black-capped Chickadee Eastern Phoebe Black-throated Green European Starling Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Eastern Towhee Blue Jay Fox Sparrow Blue-winged Teal Golden-crowned Kinglet **Blue-winged Warbler Great Blue Heron** Brown-headed Cowbird Great-crested Flycatcher Brown Creeper Hairy Woodpecker **Brown Thrasher** Herring Gull Bufflehead House Finch Canada Goose **House Sparrow House Wren** Caspian Tern Cedar Waxwing Horned Lark **Chimney Swift** Killdeer

Chipping Sparrow

Mallard Marsh Wren Mourning Dove Nashville Warbler Northern Cardinal Northern Flicker Northern Waterthrush Osprey Palm Warbler Pileated Woodpecker Pine Siskin Pine Warbler Purple Finch **Purple Martin** Red-bellied Woodpecker Red-breasted Merganser **Red-breasted Nuthatch** Red-shouldered Hawk Red-tailed Hawk Red-winged Blackbird **Ring-billed Gull** Rock Pigeon **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** Rough-legged Hawk Ruby-crowned Kinglet Lapland Longspur **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**

Rusty Blackbird Sandhill Crane Savannah Sparrow Scarlet Tanager Sedge Wren Song Sparrow Sora Swamp Sparrow Tree Swallow Tundra Swan Turkey Vulture Veery Virginia Rail Wild Turkey Wilson's Snipe Winter Wren White-breasted Nuthatch White-crowned Sparrow White-throated Sparrow Wood Duck Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Yellow-rumped Warbler Yellow Warbler

VOLUNTEER SPOTEGHT

Marisol Mittnacht

How long have you volunteered at Woodland Dunes and what made you become involved? I have been helping out in the butterfly garden for about three years. While living in Key West, I became involved in the garden club volunteering in the butterfly garden. It was a great experience; thus, I was very happy to find the butterfly garden at Woodland Dunes where I could help.

What do you most enjoy about being involved with Woodland Dunes? Saving the butterflies and other pollinators – it's very important.

What are some of your favorite pastimes or hobbies? I play mahjong and tennis. I also read, knit, crochet, and some painting.

Words of wisdom for other volunteers? Don't be afraid to join, the staff and other volunteers at the Dunes are friendly and helpful. Schedules and tools are not a problem - you can work alone whenever you are available or in a group when a garden project is planned.

Comments shared from our 2024 Maple Syrup & Forest Ecology Evaluations:



Kiddos were so excited – "Best Field Trip Ever!" Thank you for creating a great experience for one of my students. His mom was so glad you involved him all along the way! She appreciated the extra thought and planning that was given to meet her child's needs. I am also very thankful for that extra care!⁹⁹

⁶⁶We had the BEST time! All of the students and chaperones were singing its praises. It was well organized and it was great that we could tap a birch tree instead of a maple. Loved seeing all the animals too! Everyone learned so much! Thank you!²²

⁶⁶The kids loved it and all the helpers were so great and knew their topics well. I appreciated your time and effort into planning a great trip for us.²⁷

8



Marisol prefers to highlight the butterfly garden in lieu of her photo.



Thank You!

Memoriams/Honoriams

In Memory of Jerry Arkens **Doris Magyar**

In Memory of Shirley Barner Darlene Kerber Dan & Fran Ouradnik Victor & Marilvn Ponce **Skylight Wealth** Management

In Memory of Mary Frieder Mona Moen

In Memory of Mark Hunner Helen Bleser

In Memory of Robert & Doris Lyman **Doris Magyar** Jay & Rebecca Persick

General Donations

Pledging Foundation

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Endowment

Dolly McNulty

Two Rivers Kiwanis Club

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Janet Kohn **Gerald & Patricia Henry** In Honor of Jim Knickelbine

In Memory of Carol Martin

In Memory of Paul Mueller

In Memory of Carol Plasky

Brian & Jenifer Thompson

In Memory of Edith Rusboldt

In Memory of David Schaap

Carol Swoboda

Janet Kohn

Elizabeth Olson

Grants

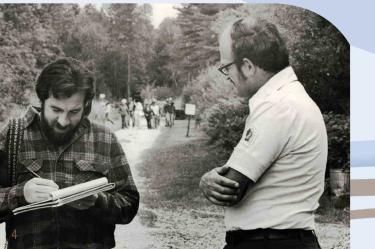
Bird City Green Bay Fund for Lake Michigan Geoffrey & Carla Liban Donald Salmon **Explore Two Rivers**

> **Building Addition** Joe & Rhonda Trader

> **Butterfly Garden Barry & Sandra Bast**

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.

Founder, Bernie Brouchoud and Bill Hurley from the Milwaukee Journal. From the archives. Date unknown.



eknbrew

2nd Annual heiknbrew!

Hurray! We had such a wonderful time last year, that we are holding our 2nd annual heiknbrew on

Friday, September 6th!

Join us for an early evening on our trails with 10 craft brew stations, 3 wine stations, food, and live music by Glo & Joe. There will also be bucket raffles and fun nature trivia at



each station! This event is for people 21 years of age and older, only. Tickets: \$40 per person, includes beer and wine tastings, keepsake glass, brat/burger/ or black-bean burger, chips, cookie and live outdoor music! Tickets will be available at various outlets, our Nature Center, and online. If ordered online, the tickets will be

at the check-in table the day of the event.

Designated Driver: If you would like to attend but are avoiding alcohol, we can accommodate you with a Designated Driver status. You will have water or soda available to you. Your ticket price is \$30, meal included.

Funds raised support our nature-based education programs and conservation efforts on our 1,500-acre preserve. Event will happen rain or shine.

Sponsorships still available! For more information, please contact Nancy at: nancyn@woodlanddunes.org or 920-793-4007.



This past winter I had been working on clearing a couple acres of glossy buckthorn and honeysuckle along our Willow Trail. The mild winter made it easy to get out and move through the thickets. No herbicide was used in the dormant season, but the majority of the large stems were taken out. This should make cutting back the regrowth and treating a much easier task. Once the spring kicked off, I was able to see many beautiful native shrubs and trees emerging in the once dense stand of glossy buckthorn. I flagged desirable species like Nannyberry, Highbush Cranberry, Juneberry, and Black Cherry and then repurposed old tubing to protect them from the next round of cutting and herbicide treatment.

This is a process I would like to implement across the preserve, utilizing the cooler months where we don't often have as many outdoors

projects to tend to, so that we can knock back flowering and seed production from invasives the next season and make it easier to treat whatever target area we decide is a priority.

This summer we have four habitat restoration interns and one Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU) intern, who will be helping with habitat, education, and communications.

our Conifer Trail.

Some of the trees we'll be planting include some regionally native species we're experimenting with: American Sycamore,

The habitat interns will be spearheading two major projects. We'll be planting 750 trees and shrubs north of our Willow Trail near the Nature Center as well as building a one-acre deer enclosure off of Columbus Street along

Black Tupelo, and Bald Cypress. This process of assisted migration may become an important tool as our climate shifts. All of these species should do well in the riparian habitat we'll be planting.

The deer exclosure will encompass an ash dominated swale that will be planted up by next year's interns. The benefit of this exclosure is that we don't have to individually cage each tree and shrub we plant within it. That should free up a lot of labor and materials from cutting cages, hauling them into the swales, to eventually removing them after a few years of providing protection. We're excited to watch this experiment unfold and hope it leads to further implementation across our preserve.

- Max Kornetzke, land manager



Unless otherwise stated, registration is required for all programs. Please note registration deadlines and program location. To register, email Jess at jessicaj@woodlanddunes.org or call 920-793-4007.



Star Parties Saturday, June 8th Saturday, July 6th Saturday, August 10th 10:00-11:00pm

Summer

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. You can even 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 and Next Era.

Pond Dipping for Adults

Wednesday, June 12th 9:00-10:00am

Sliding scale suggested donation \$1-\$10 Pond dipping is not just for the kids! Get hands on in the ponds near the Nature Center and use dip nets to collect and identify invertebrates (and maybe a few vertebrates too). We will be spending time around the edge of the pond, so wear rain boots/water shoes if you have them. Registration required by Monday, June 10th, space is limited. Sponsored by The Winston Group.

Raising a Wild Child

Thursday, June 13th: Dragonflies Thursday, July 11th: Osprey Thursday, August 8th: Shapes In Nature Session 1: 9:00-10:15am Session 2: 10:45am-Noon Members: \$2/child Non-members: \$3/child Experience the wonders of

nature with your 2-5 year old through nature hikes, play and guided activities. Help your child notice the natural world and ignite their curiosity! Children must be accompanied by an adult. Dress for the weather, majority of the program takes place outdoors. Older siblings welcome in the summer. Registration required by the Monday before each session, space is limited. Sponsored by Geoffrey & Carla Liban.

Blitz 50: Plants

Saturday, June 22nd 9:00-11:00am

In celebration of our 50th year, we are offering a "Blitz 50" during each season. This entails heading out on the trail with a leader and identifying 50 different things within a specific category in the preserve. This summer we will look for 50 different plants with Vanessa Brotske, UW-GB Biology Lecturer, and Dunes' staff. Registration is required by Thursday, June 22nd, space is limited. Families welcome. Sponsored by The Winston Group and Next Era.

Mud Day Celebration

Friday, June 28th 4:30-6:00pm Members: \$2/child Non-members: \$3/child Bring the kids to celebrate

International Mud Day by playing in kiddie pools of mud! Make mud pies, feel the muck squish between your toes and run through the sprinkler when you are ready to clean off. Be prepared to get dirty! An extra change of

clothes and plastic bags are highly recommended. Registration appreciated by Wednesday, June 26th. Sponsored by Geoffrey and Carla Liban.



UPCOMING EVENTS

July 9th: Pond Life July 16th: Astronomy July 23rd: Nature STEM July 30th: Trees and Leaves August 6th: Butterflies Session 1: 1:30-2:15pm Session 2: 2:45-3:30pm

Families are invited to participate in naturethemed activities that everyone will enjoy. Program takes place at the Nature Center under the pavilion, rain or shine. Two sessions available each Tuesday afternoon with new themes each week. Registration required by the Friday before each session, space is limited. Sponsored by Geoffrey and Carla Liban.

Firefly Night

Thursday, July 11th 9:00-10:00pm Members: \$4; \$10 family Non-members: \$5; \$15 family

Enjoy an evening light show at the Dunes! Learn a few firefly basics before carefully catching and observing these amazing insects. Be prepared for mosquitoes. Registration required. Program is weather dependent.

The Pollinator and Native Plant Connection

Tuesday, July 30th 6:00-7:30pm

Sliding scale suggested donation \$1-\$10

Ever wonder how and why pollinators and native plants depend on each other? They've evolved together and humans and other animals rely heavily on pollinators for food. Pollinators and their caterpillars carry a heavy load in the cycle of life. Learn how it all fits together and why their continued survival is so important. This program will be led by Annette Weissbach, a Northeastern Wisconsin Master Gardener and member of the Wild Ones Green Bay Chapter. She also spent 30 years working as a WDNR Hydrogeologist. The program will start with an indoor presentation and the group will enjoy a short walk outside (weather permitting). Registration appreciated by Friday, July 26th. Sponsored by the Winston Group and Next Era.

Chimney Swifts – the Night Show Must Go On

Thursday, August 8th 1:30-2:30pm Sliding scale suggested donation \$1-\$10 Learn how to identify these charismatic birds, learn their current population status and threats, why they're incredibly important to us, and how you can get involved. Registration appreciated by Tuesday, August 6th. Sponsored by the Winston Group and Next Era.

Storytime on the Road -Fantastic Frogs at Woodland Dunes Nature Center

Friday, August 9th 10:00-11:00am

Leap on over to Woodland Dunes Nature Center and join Manitowoc Public library staff for a storytime filled with froggy fun! Stick around after for a toad-ally awesome activity provided by Woodland Dunes. It will be a hoppin' good time! Storytime is recommended for developmental ages 2-5 and siblings are always welcome. In the event of inclement weather, the program will be held inside the Nature Center.

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

The Butterfly & Bee Garden

For the past few months, I've enjoyed taking a Pollinator Steward Certification course through Pollinator Partnership, an organization whose mission is to promote the health of pollinators, critical to food and ecosystems, through conservation, education, and research. The course covered seven topics, the first of which was "An Introduction to Pollinators." Here are the key takeaways:

- The most important of all pollinators are bees. They have the most interaction with crops. There are 20,000 species of all bees worldwide, including 4,000 in North America.
- Challenges that bees face include habitat loss, invasive species, pesticides, parasites, and climate change.
- North American native bees are mostly solitary ground nesters, have short lives, do not store honey, forage close to their nest, and do not defend colonies.
- We see lots of bees because different species emerge at different times.
- Climate change can cause extra challenges: the timing of blooms and bee emergence may not coordinate; range contraction may occur, where bees are squeezed into smaller zones and may actually be gone from their original zones; and for migratory pollinators, if bloom time is off, they won't get the nutrition needed during migration.

What can you do to help? Create habitat for native bees in your own yard. Support conservation of pollinator habitat at places like Woodland Dunes. Take advantage of educational opportunities to learn and understand more about pollinators, "the wings of life."

Visit www.pollinator.org for lots of information. In future newsletters I'll share more information from the course. Stay tuned!

- Wendy Lutzke, butterfly & bee garden coordinator

U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

Come on over and spend the summer hiking with us! To celebrate Woodland Dunes turning

50 years old in 2024, we are offering 50 guided hikes throughout the year. Some hikes will be on a specific topic while others will be open to what nature presents to us. Hikes will be guided

by staff or a guest leader. This is a fun opportunity to enjoy all of our trails as well as some areas

Registration is required for all hikes as trail conditions & weather will affect the meeting location.

Space is limited. Register by the Friday before each hike (or sooner so you don't miss out). A staff

person will email the meeting location and trail condition. Unless otherwise noted, all hikes are

about 1 mile or less. This is your official invite to celebrate Woodland Dunes - adventure awaits!

50 Hikes for 50 Years

CELEBRATING 1974 2024 Ugears 50 HIKES FOR 50 YEARS

#23 After the Burn Guided Hike

Wednesday, June 5th | 9:00 AM Hike through the Henry Wetland Preserve and see the fresh regrowth after the spring prescribed fire.

#24 Geologic Hike Through History

Thursday, June 13th | 2:00 PM Come for a guided hike through time (and Conifer Trail) as we discuss what Wisconsin was like in the past... with fossils!

#25 Early Morning Meander

Friday, June 21st | 8:30 AM Enjoy an early morning hike with staff along one of our trails. Trail TBD

#26 Come See the Cottonwood

Wednesday, June 26th | 9:00 AM Walk all of Willow Trail and Horsetail Loop with staff to see the giant cottonwood tree! The hike will be around 2 miles in length.

#27 Summer Guided Hike

Wednesday, July 3rd | 2:00 PM Join staff on a guided hike along one of our trails to celebrate summer! Trail TBD

sored by The Winston Group and Next Era. #28 Black Cherry Guided Hike

of the preserve that are not typically open to the public!

Tuesday, July 9th | 2:00 PM Go for a guided hike along Black Cherry Trail to look at the plants and animals that are here in the summer.

#29 Evening Marsh Hike

Tuesday, July 16th | 6:00 PM Spend the evening listening to the sounds of the marsh along Cattail Trail.

#30 Full Bloom Foray in the Garden

Wednesday, July 24th | 11:00 AM Join staff for a peaceful walk through our beautiful pollinator garden to look at what flowers are in bloom.

#31 Pollinator Prowl

Friday, August 2nd | 10:00 AM Let's prowl along one of the prairies to look for flowers and pollinators! Trail TBD

#32 Late Summer Blooms

Friday, August 9th | 10:00 AM Come hike Blazing Star Trail at the Henry Wetland Preserve to check out the diverse range of late summer blooms thriving post-burn.

#33 Bugler Property Hike

Saturday, August 17th | 9:00 AM Join staff at our Bugler Preserve where the public is not allowed to go - and learn why! Walk through forest and prairie to talk about the history and future plans for the preserve. This hike will be around 1.5 miles in length.

#34 Mosses, Lichen, Mushrooms Guided Hike

Wednesday, August 21st | 9:00 AM Let's engage macro vision and look for mosses, lichen, and mushrooms while hiking Yellow Birch Trail. (Reminder: this is to learn, not to forage. Foraging is not allowed on Dunes' property).

#35 Willow Trail Guided Hike

Tuesday, August 27th | 8:00 AM Join staff on an early morning guided hike along Willow Trail and Goldenrod Loop.



A Look Back and A Shared Memory of Woodland Dunes

By Ashley Kvitek

My first memory of Woodland Dunes was in... I think... middle school for a snowshoeing trip. I was part of the Denmark School District. I had never been there and it was so fun! I barely understood or knew that my friend Jenny's dad was the ED! All I remembered was how much I really liked snowshoeing and the differences between modern and native snowshoe styles.

Dunes fell off my radar for a long while. I went to college at UW-La Crosse, focusing on Environmental Sociology, and didn't have a clear direction after graduating. After graduation, I visited my Grandpa every day and heard his words about caring for land and the responsibility our family had as landowners to make sure we could continue our farming tradition into the future.

While looking for work, I turned to Woodland Dunes for a feel-good experience during a tough time. I initially started as someone learning to do trail maintenance. On my second or third service day, I got an email from the person helping me volunteer. She told me that they were short a volunteer for one of their elementary education programs. She asked if I could fill in and I very reluctantly agreed, not sure I was the right fit. She sent me a lesson plan and an outline of the day, and off we went.

That day turned out to be what I later learned to call a Transformative Experience. I took a group of 4th graders, made them put on muck boots, and took them off the boardwalk and into the marsh. We talked about the importance of wetlands and marshes in our local ecosystems, and students and I demonstrated the bouncy house effect of a local wetland. At the end of that day, I knew my life had changed.

In February of 2011, I applied for a graduate program in environmental education. I wouldn't have looked for that without Woodland Dunes staff, and it changed my future in ways I could never imagine.



I was accepted to North Cascades Institute and Western Washington University in April of 2011, and in June I packed my bags and left the Midwest. I spent two years in North Cascades National Park in Washington, earning my graduate degree in Environmental Education and Nonprofit Administration, with a focus on Stewardship and Community Science. Since then, I have had a 6-year career in community and youth recreation education, working in partnership with WA state land trusts and CA State Parks, and a current 5-year work term as a project manager for the Napa County Resource Conservation District.

I fully believe that I would not be where I am in my life without my experiences and the encouragement of staff at Woodland Dunes. Thank you so much - you were the transformative experience that changed the trajectory of my whole life, whether you knew it or not. Happy 50th Anniversary!



PO Box 486 | Two Rivers, WI 54241-0486

WOODLAND DUNES NATURE CENTER

Headquarters & Nature Shop

3000 Hawthorne Ave. West of Two Rivers

Hours

Monday - Friday: 9 am - 4 pm Saturday: 9 am - 12 pm (April - October)

Contact

Phone: (920) 793-4007 Website: www.woodlanddunes.org Facebook: Look up Woodland Dunes in Two Rivers, WI and like our page!

Staff

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Development CoordinatorNancy NabakLand ManagerMax KornetzkeNaturalistKennedy ZittelAdministrative AssistantJenifer ThompsonButterfly Garden CoordinatorWendy Lutzke

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	🗌 \$35	Family
	🗌 \$50	Patron
	□ \$100	Contributor
\$250 \$500 \$1,000 \$5,000	Conservator Benefactor	Contributor I would like to contribute to the endowment fund. Please contact me.
\$500 \$1,000 \$5,000	Conservator Benefactor Steward Guardian membership is p	I would like to contribute to the endowment fund. Please contact me. aid after September 1,
\$500 \$5,000 \$5,000 If a lit cove	Conservator Benefactor Steward Guardian membership is p ers the end of the e send this form	I would like to contribute to the endowment fund. Please contact me.