

News from the North Woods

Winter/Spring 2012

Volume 38, Issue 1

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A proud leader in environmental education and renewable energy

Reunions

by Melonie Shipman, Co-Director

As I type this it is “that time of year again” and by the time you read this it will be “that time of year again”. On paper, the Audubon Center hosts several wonderful annual events – from Becoming an Outdoors Woman in February to Winter Family Escape in late December. In spirit, these events have become reunions of families of friends, ever welcoming a new member to share the fun, learning, and renewing energy these times together generate.

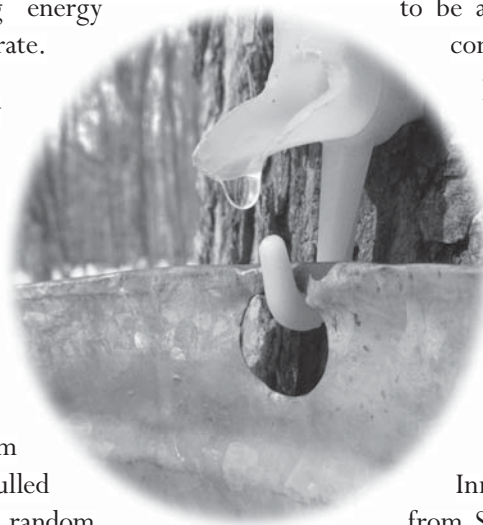
In Fall of 2010, as a very new K12 Co-Executive Director, I absorbed my first Women’s Wellness & Adventure Weekend (WWW). It was constantly reinforced during my first WWW that what Kate Crowley, with the help of Char Husom and Laurie Fenner, had pulled together was not just a random group of women who happened to attend a weekend together. What they had built was a community that looked forward to this event every year – just like a family reunion.

About the time you read this we will be gearing up to host our 16th WWW. Women of all ages attend, with most of them in the 30-60 age range. Some small groups and individuals have attended WWW since the very first one in 2004. In addition to singles

Fully Energized

by Bryan Wood, Co-Director

In the last newsletter, I wrote about the work that has been happening at the Audubon Center through energy grants from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (appropriated by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources), and from the Department of Energy (appropriated by Congressman Oberstar). It is wonderful to be able to say we have now completed all of the energy projects for these grants, the last two being a 23.1 kw solar photovoltaic system near Crosby Lodge, and a 4’ x 10’ solar hot air panel installed on the Wildlife Barn.



The solar photovoltaic system was designed by Innovative Power Systems from St. Paul, and installed by Blue Horizon Solar out of Eden Prairie.

The system consists of six dual tracking arrays, each with sixteen 240 watt Samsung® panels. The system has been functional since December 12, and produces electricity that powers our geothermal heating and cooling system as well as lighting for both Crosby Lodge and the Dining Hall/Office building. We are looking forward to watching our utility bills decrease over the next year and see what percentage of our electricity needs



Upcoming Events

- January Interim: Wolves
January 2-20
- Dinner at the Lake
February 18
- Becoming an Outdoor Woman
February 24-26
- Maple Syrup Day
March 24
- Dinner at the Lake
April 21
- Women's Wellness & Adventure
May 3-5
- Mother's Day Brunch
May 13, 2012
- Adult Wildlife Camp
June 10-14
- Road Scholar - Loons
June 10-15
- Road Scholar - intergenerational
June 17-22
- Summer Family Escape
July 5-8

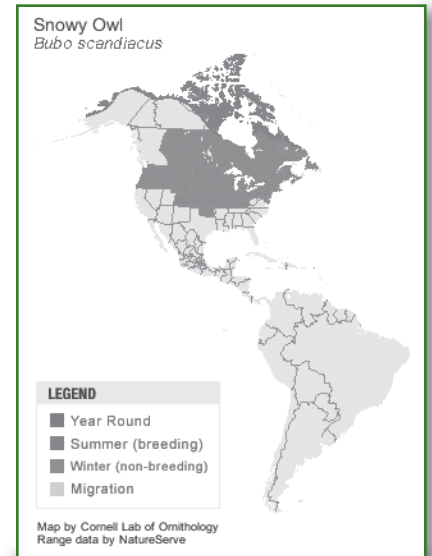
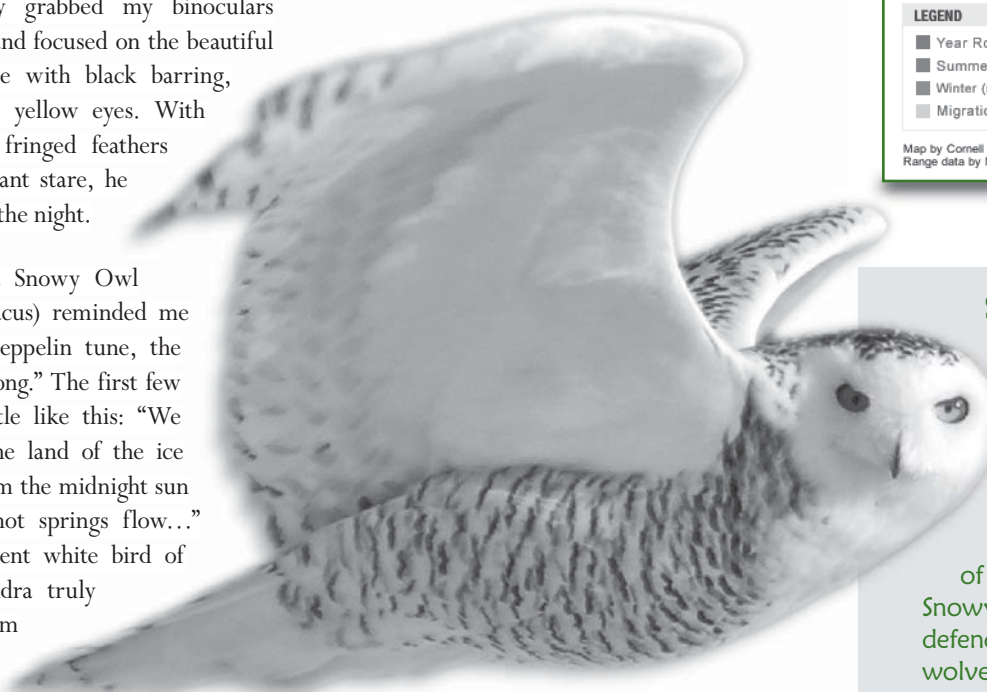
A Snowy Year

by Anna Keenan, Wildlife Intern

The sky had just turned to twilight, that particular shade of purple velvet, when I saw it. A ghost bird, flying on silent wings to alight on a rooftop in downtown Duluth. I jumped up and down, whispering hysterically, "It's a Snowy! It's a Snowy!" I immediately grabbed my binoculars from the car and focused on the beautiful white plumage with black barring, the enormous yellow eyes. With a fluffing of fringed feathers and an indignant stare, he launched into the night.

My very first Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*) reminded me of the Led Zeppelin tune, the "Immigrant Song." The first few lines go a little like this: "We come from the land of the ice and snow, from the midnight sun where the hot springs flow..." This magnificent white bird of the open tundra truly comes from the land of the ice and snow, where

its feathers extend to its talons and the nestlings rest on permafrost. It is being seen more and more throughout the Midwest this winter. Many of you may recall the unusual abundance of Great Grey Owls in 2005 when thousands of these birds were filtering down south to find food. Many species of owls in northern climes may "irrupt" (or migrate in abnormally large



Snowy Snippets

- Snowy Owls are diurnal (active in daytime)
- Nests are a simple, circular depression made by the female on the ground in the middle of the open tundra. Adult Snowy Owls will aggressively defend them, attacking even wolves to protect their young!
- A single adult Snowy may eat up to 1,600 lemmings per year!
- It is very rare to see a Snowy perched in a tree. When in the Midwest, look for them hunting in open country such as cornfields and airports.
- Snowy Owls are among the largest in North America. While shorter than the Great-Horned or Great Grey Owls, they are heavier.
- Females are larger than males, like all raptors.
- They have thick feathers all the way down to their talons to keep out the severe cold of an arctic winter.
- Snowy Owls are circumpolar—found north of the Arctic Circle, through Russia, Canada, Alaska, and Greenland

numbers) south when food becomes scarce or when there is too much snow cover for hunting.

Predator/prey cycles often result in an abundance of both species, or a "boon" year. By studying the population cycles of lemmings, ornithologists believe that this year's Snowy irruption is a combination of an over-abundance of lemmings (their main source of food) from the previous year, consequently leading to more hatch year Snowy Owls surviving and less food this year, pushing hungry owls south.

After juvenile owls leave the nest, they have to fend for themselves, seeking out their own territory and nesting sites. Due to the abundance of young owlets produced last year and lack of food this year, there is not enough space on the hunting grounds or enough food to go around and Snowy Owls are moving south this winter.

Friend a Wild Critter

Help support the care of any of our resident education birds and animals through our "Friend a Wild Critter" program. Your donation goes towards housing, medical care, food and enrichment items, to help encourage natural behavior in our non-releasable birds and mammals.

As part of the adoption process, you will receive a 4x6 magnet photo of the animal, an "Adoption Certificate", a personal and natural history of "your" animal, recognition in our newsletter, and a tour of the ACNW wildlife facility. For more information, please contact Jeff Tyson, our Wildlife Coordinator or visit our website.

Dinners at the Lake

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN PRICE: Starting in 2012, early bird reservations (made before the week of) are still \$20/adult, \$10/child age 5-12 yrs and reservations made the week of the event are \$25/adult and \$13/child age 5-12 yrs

◆ Dinner at the Lake - February 18, 2012

Mysteries of the Aurora Borealis: The Northern Lights
with Bob Lysak - University of MN School of Physics and Astronomy

◆ Dinner at the Lake - April 21, 2012

Osprey Recovery
with Mark Martell - director of bird conservation for Audubon MN

◆ Mother's Day Brunch - Sunday, May 13, 2012

with music by
Douglas Wood & The Wild Spirit Band



Reservations are required & space is limited, so reserve early!

888-404-7743 or audubon1@audubon-center.org

Visit our website at www.audubon-center.org for more information

Good Eats at the Center

Here is a favorite recipe from our chef, Tom Stelter, that has been a 'hit' at our Dinners:

Pumpkin Dessert (serves 18)

1 package yellow cake mix (18.25 ounces)
1/3 cup butter, melted
1 egg

1 (29 ounce) can pumpkin
1/2 cup brown sugar
2/3 cup milk
3 eggs
2 tablespoons pumpkin pie spice

1/2 cup butter, chilled
1/2 cup white sugar
3/4 cup chopped walnuts

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F and lightly grease a 9x13 inch baking dish. Set aside 1 cup of cake mix. Combine remaining cake mix with melted butter and 1 egg and mix until well blended; spread mixture in the bottom of the prepared baking dish.

In a large bowl, combine pumpkin, brown sugar, milk, 3 eggs and pumpkin pie spice; mix well and pour over cake mix mixture in baking dish. In a small bowl with a pastry blender (or in food processor), combine chilled butter, white sugar and reserved cake mix until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Sprinkle over pumpkin mixture. Sprinkle chopped walnuts over all. Bake for 45-50 minutes, until top is golden. **Enjoy!**



Annual Pancake Brunch and Maple Syruping Program

featuring hands-on demos of the entire maple syrup process

Saturday, March 24, 2012

10:00 AM – 3 PM – Programs

10:00 AM – 2 PM - Brunch

Canoe Raffle

We want to remind you to think of warmer days by buying canoe raffle tickets. This beautiful hand-made solo cedar canoe is 13 ft. long and was built and donated by board member Jim Obey. You can buy raffle tickets for this wonderful one-of-a-kind canoe for \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Raffle tickets may be purchased at our Dinners at the Lake, Maple Syrup Day and in our Nature Store.



The Canoe Raffle will culminate with a winner drawing at our Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, June 2, 2012. If the winner is not in attendance, we will call to congratulate them and coordinate a time for pick-up. All raffle proceeds go towards helping the Audubon Center meet our mission – *to instill a connection and commitment to the environment in people of all communities through experiential learning* – so feel free to buy one, two, four or forty!

Road Scholar® Summer & Fall Programs

Minnesota: Loons, Living Waters, and Ancient Rocks of the Earth

6/10/2012 - 6/15/2012

Program #: 11538RJ Cost: \$593

Sample a few of our 10,000 lakes, and float among loons and water lilies; study life above and below the water, including beautiful and bizarre insects. Visit Jay Cooke State Park where geological stories are cut into deep canyons of Precambrian rocks by the roiling waters of the St. Louis. Search for the beautiful Minnesota Agate and handle volcanic rocks that are over two billion years old. Listen to the story of Lake Superior and the harbor of Duluth. If you are a fan of scenic landforms, complex natural stories and diverse natural communities, this program will be an exercise in both mind and body.

INTERGENERATIONAL:

Intended for grandparents with grandchildren from 9-12 years of age.

Woods, Water and Wisdom: Nature Adventure at the Lake

6/17/2012 - 6/22/2011

Program #: 4966RJ \$513 adults, \$393 children

The forests, fields, ponds and lakes of MN's North Woods hold exciting environmental lessons for you and your grandchild. Search for reptiles and amphibians, meet impressive birds of prey, discover the hidden life of beavers and learn about the natural behavior of wolves. Feel the rush of adventure on our rock climbing wall and high ropes course, canoe on beautiful Grindstone Lake, learn outdoor survival skills and enjoy making traditional Ojibwe crafts. Take field trips to the North West Fur Post and the Hinckley Fire Museum.

Migration Mysteries: Hawks on the Wing, Wolves in the Wild, and North Country Settlers

8/26/2012 - 8/21/2012

Program #: 5745RJ Cost: \$593

Hawks On The Wing: Migration Mysteries. Visit Hawk Ridge, nationally known for thousands of migrating raptors each fall. Meet our birds of prey and discover their special adaptations. *Wolves In The Wild: Symbols Of Wilderness.* Meet a captive pack of wolves. Observe their special behavior, including communication styles. *Voyageurs, Lumberjacks And Ojibwe Indians.* Explore the north country history through the original inhabitants, the Ojibwe Indians, and the subsequent exploration and exploits of the Canadian voyageurs and lumber barons. Retrace those times at two Museums and the Northwest Fur Post.

ACNW Wish List

We are in need of the items below. Remember, your 'in-kind' donations are tax-deductible.

- utility trailer
- reliable, fuel-efficient car for interns
- 3/4 ton pick-up truck for snowplowing
- canoe trailer
- wood splitter
- hay wagon
- industrial-size washer & dryer
- scaffolding
- pressure sprayer
- small portable generator
- twin mattresses in excellent condition
- handheld GPS units
- binoculars
- LCD computer monitors (thin, flat)
- tree corer
- cross country skis & snowshoes for very small kids
- backpacking expedition packs
- sleeping bags in excellent condition
- ice machine
- cleaning buckets
- large mixing bowls
- vacuum cleaner in good working order
- table lamps
- large stock pots
- queen-size sheets and blanket
- vellux blankets in excellent condition
- glass bud vases
- roto tiller
- bobcat/skidster
- electric golf cart
- riding mower/tractor

Wildlife Barn Wish List

Assist us in the care of our educational animals or enhance the visit of those who come to learn about Minnesota's wildlife by donating any of the following items. Rope comes on 100' or 600' spools, donations should be in whole spools. Raptor food is special ordered; the cash donation will go towards food purchases.

- Microwave
- Autoclave
- 3/4" Manila Rope
- 1/2" Manila Rope
- 1/4" Manila Rope
- Raptor Food For a Month \$150
- Parrot/dog toys (new or gently used)
- Potted evergreen trees (less than 3' tall)
- Bird/Wildlife Art Work
- Gift cards to Petco or PetSmart
- Assorted Rubbermaid storage containers

Calling All Nature Books!



In our last newsletter we mentioned how Lowry Lodge now boasts beautiful, handcrafted native timber bookshelves. Our task now is to fill these shelves with great nature books

for groups to enjoy during their stay. If you have any books that are nature, environment, earth science, or nature art related, and that are in good condition, we would welcome your donation to help these shelves fulfill their purpose. If you are interested in donating books, please contact Co-Director Bryan Wood at bwood@audubon-center.org.

Lowry Lodge ADA Ramp Installed

This fall we installed an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) ramp at the ground level for Lowry Lodge, allowing people of all abilities to now have access to the recently renovated Lodge. The ADA ground level of the Lowry Lodge consists of the classroom and kitchen, the mural gathering room, one bedroom and men and women bathrooms. With the addition of the this ramp at Lowry, all campus buildings at the Audubon Center are now ADA accessible.



Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AudubonCenter

Climbing Loft Makeover

Another area of the Center that has recently undergone a makeover is the Climbing Wall Loft of the Wildlife Barn. In 1998, we installed a rock climbing wall into the old hayloft of the Barn, and have been offering climbing programs since then. To fully utilize the large space of the loft and improve the aesthetics, this past year we painted all the osb walls, ceiling and floor, and installed six south-facing windows to offer great views of our pine meadows, while providing passive heating and lighting. We also added a white board, projector screen, AV cart, and wireless internet so the space can be used as a breakout or meeting space for groups and conferences.



To improve our climbing wall area for school groups, we recently added 7,000 lbs. of 100% recycled crushed rubber for a new floor. The crushed rubber now provides a 6" deep padded surface which offers a more uniform and safe flooring for all climbers. This new flooring is a big upgrade over the previous gym mats that served as the floor padding before.



Programs for Groups

In addition to our climbing wall program, we offer a wide range of program options to visiting groups, including high ropes, team-building, wildlife programs and a variety of naturalist-led programs.

Stop out and see the improved Climbing Loft area for yourself – a great space for a rock climbing session or meeting space for your group. For information on our climbing wall program or meeting space rentals, contact our Reservations Coordinator Helen Hallstrom at hallstrom@audubon-center.org.

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and groups of friends, attendees include sibling groups and older Moms sharing time with their grown daughters. For many of these women, the appeal of WWW is having a dedicated time to share together without other family responsibilities. Their only responsibility here is to use the time as they choose in whatever way best nourishes and renews them – and to share that experience with their attending family members.

These actual family groups are an active and integrating part of the bigger family group that is everyone attending. Every WWW has about 70% returnees and 30% newbies. Yet within hours, the new arrivals are dining with the veterans as if they had been reuniting here for years. One of the things that I most enjoy from this community is their gentle coaching of this still-green new hostess for the event. This coaching comes in the way of small conversations, gestures while I am making announcements and the all-important evaluations. When you attend an event at the Center, you have the WWW to thank for small improvements such as a campfire pit near the dormitory.

That campfire pit will be well enjoyed by one of our other major annual reunion groups, our Winter Family Escape. Having lost both my parents within months of that event last year, it was super nurturing for me to see the shared caring, flexibility, and acceptance of this group of families. Our interns, some of whom cannot be home for the holidays, especially look forward to sharing winter fun in the North Woods with an extended family. Whether it snows or not, we know that the entire team – our staff, the interns, and the attending families – will adapt, suggest, and develop to assure that this will be another positive life-long memory for all.

While our staff does spend months planning, purchasing, and preparing for each event, it is the positive anticipation that our fellow “family” members bring with them that turns the event into a reunion. Although we do not share the same blood, we do share the same sense of being renewed by nature, the desire to step back and be wrapped up in its nourishment, and the fun of learning from and through it.

Hope to see you at a “reunion” some time in 2012.

NOW HIRING - Interns for Fall 2012-2013 season

We are just starting our search and hiring process for our new batch of interns for the Fall 2012-2013 season. Applications are due by 2/16/12. Interns at the Center:

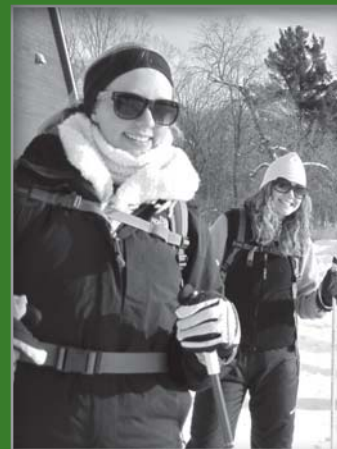
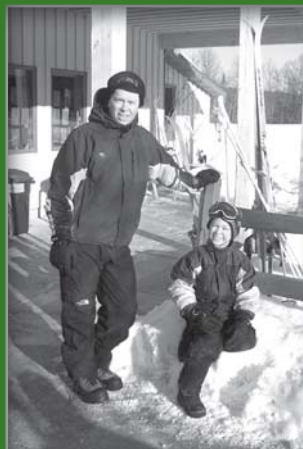
- Learn environmental education from our professional staff
- Extend their knowledge behind the scenes with a look at what it takes to run an environmental education center, e.g. fundraising, budgets, marketing, etc.
- Receive a small living stipend, private room, and most meals
- Receive Environmental Education certificate and Graduate Credits from Hamline University

If you know of someone who might be interested in an opportunity like this, please have them contact:

Jessica Harguth
Intern Coordinator
harguth@audubon-center.org
888-404-7743 ext. 107

Winter is a great time to visit the Center!

Come on out and play in the snow!



Spotlight on schools

The Audubon Center presented programs for 95 public and charter schools in 2010-2011. Helping students and teachers to see the natural world with new eyes spurs them to further environmentally-focused actions in their schools. We celebrate this seed sprouting into a world in which we all live in balance with nature. If you know of a school, that attends programs at the Audubon Center, and is to be celebrated for its science and/or environmental actions please let us know so we can turn the spotlight on them in future columns.

We are delighted to announce that the Audubon Center of the North Woods Charter School team has an outstanding new Lead Coordinator. David Greenberg joined the team starting January 5 and full time beginning January 16th.

David most recently was the Founder and Executive Director of El Colegio Charter School in Minneapolis. As well, he has an extensive background in working with Minnesota Association of Charter Schools, EdVisions Coop, Coalition of Essential Schools and in successful grant writing. "Fair, collaborative, composed, and skilled" were terms we heard and used constantly from references and interviewers.

David will be well assisted by new Charter School Administrative Assistant, Steph Smith. Steph dazzles us daily with her thorough and well thought out organizational skills. And she does it all with a smile and warmth that is like a welcome sunbeam on a cold day.

As we welcome new staff, we send a sea of thanks and good wishes with Steve Dess. Steve led the portfolio of now 35 diverse Audubon-authorized schools since the initiative began seven years ago.

Summer Family Escape

Bringing Families & Nature Together



Possible activities:

- Archery
- Fishing
- High Ropes
- Animal Signs
- Survivor
- Forest Hikes
- Aquatics
- Wildlife Programs
- Target Shooting
- ...and more

July 5-8, 2012

Exciting outdoor, challenge and wildlife experiences for the whole family.

We welcome all types of families to participate! Most of these outdoor family classes and workshops are geared towards families that have children between the ages of 6 and 18 - younger children are welcome to attend but may not be able to participate in all classes.

All-inclusive rates (includes 3 nights lodging, 9 meals and all programming):

\$240/adult, \$195/child 5-18 years old, no charge for children 4 yrs and under.

Family group rates:

Families of 4 = \$795 (each additional person = \$125). Commuter rates are also available.

Early Bird Discount

Register by June 4, 2012 and take 10% off the above rates!

Discover Women's Wellness & Adventure Weekend



May 4-6, 2012

You deserve it!

This all-inclusive, complete holistic retreat, offered every spring and fall, is very popular and leaves participants refreshed and renewed—comfy lodging, wonderful food, interesting speakers, and a variety of classes and activities in the areas of Adventure/Challenge, Wellness & Nature, and Creative Expressions. Below are some *examples* of past and future classes to give you an idea of the range of offerings—**not all are offered every season** and new classes are added each season:

- * Adventure & Challenge (examples include high ropes course, low ropes course, climbing wall, survivor, nordic walking)
- * Wellness & Nature (examples include yoga, massage, reiki, meditation, intuition, healing, guided hikes, bird banding)
- * Creative Expressions (examples include art classes, crafts classes, food, photography, journaling, music, quillwork)

All-inclusive rates starting from \$265/person



*The perfect Valentine's or Mother's Day
Gift for that special woman in your life!
Gift certificates are available.*

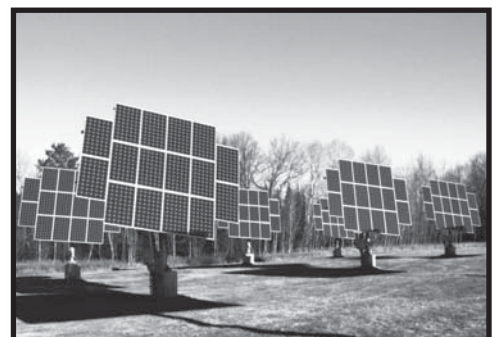


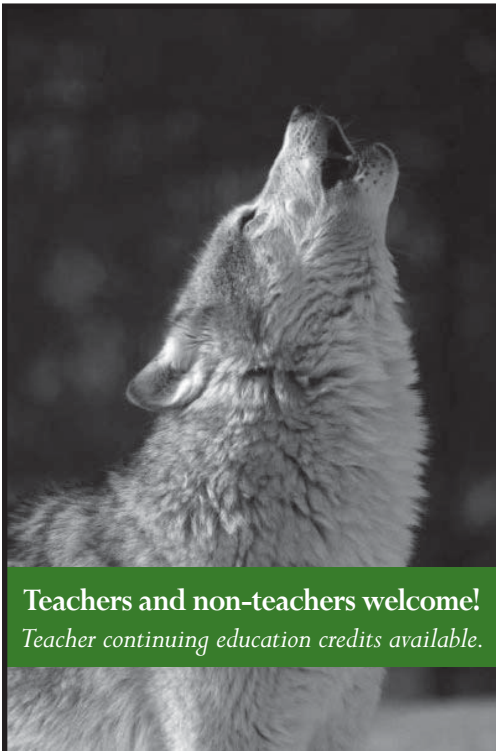
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these panels, along with our existing three solar arrays and wind turbine, produce for both buildings. The solar air heating panel for the Barn was manufactured and installed by the Rural Renewable Energy Alliance (RREAL) out of Pine River, MN and now provides a portion of our heating needs to the climbing loft of the Wildlife Barn. By being mounted vertically on the exterior of the barn, the panel is positioned to maximize solar energy with the low azimuth of the Sun during the winter months, when heating needs are at their greatest.

In addition to the energy efficiency and renewable technology measures we have taken, we also are creating interpretive displays so that participants and visitors can learn about each renewable technology currently utilized at the Center. This includes signs for solar hot water, solar hot air, solar photovoltaic, wind and geothermal energies. By the end of January, look for these exterior interpretive displays at each renewable technology to learn not only how they provide the Audubon Center with clean energy, but also about the benefits of these technologies for installing at your school, business or home.

We will continue to implement more energy measures moving ahead as we pursue our Sustainable Energy Campaign goal of an 80% carbon emissions reduction of our 2007 levels by 2017. We encourage you to stop out and see the progress we have made over the last year in our commitment to sustainable energy, and hope you join us along the way.





Teachers and non-teachers welcome!
Teacher continuing education credits available.

Early Bird Discount

Register by May 9, 2012 and receive a 10% discount

Grownups get to have fun too!

Adult Wildlife Camp

June 10-14, 2012

- Enjoy a variety of wildlife-related field trips and behind-the-scenes experiences
- Great evening speakers, including Laura Erickson, author of *Twelve Owls*
- Tools and curriculum ideas to apply learning to classroom
- Hands-on learning with wildlife topics ranging from fish to wolves and wildcats
- And, to make your week with us even more delightful, savor top-notch meals in our beautiful lakeside dining room and enjoy canoeing on Grindstone Lake, hiking our trails and experiencing our high ropes/zipline course.



All-inclusive rates
(includes 4 nights lodging, 12 meals and all programming):

Early Bird rate (register by May 9) = \$455/person

After May 9, 2012 = \$490/person

Volunteer Spotlight

As a non-profit organization, we depend on volunteers for help with everything from routine maintenance to special projects. All of the special people who selflessly donate their time and talents to the center are deeply appreciated. The following is from our own Co-Director, Melonie Shipman, who started out here as a volunteer and still volunteers in our wildlife barn every Thursday morning.

I started volunteering at the Wildlife Barn, in February 2009, and continue to do so for several reasons:

- We have a choice about what we do in the environment, non-releasable animals do not. They are not able to lead the life they were meant to usually because of some human act: being hit by a car, shot by someone, or imprinted by an uneducated human.
- The more direct and the fuller the experience, the more that I learn. Cutting up and weighing out food for the birds reinforces, as nothing else can, the minute changes that have a huge impact on the life of a wild animal.
- I am fascinated by the smallest to the biggest learning about wildlife and every day volunteering in the barn is a powerful, nurturing classroom, with great teachers.
- As a lifelong educator, I know that learners are more captivated by educators who "have been there" vs. just gained knowledge from books.
- For me the bottom line of environmental education is so that wildlife can lead the life it is meant to do and in so doing give more meaning to my own life and most of others.
- Many of my most captivating nature moments were associated with wildlife, including some as a volunteer at the Wildlife Barn – the moment I had worked up to be able to hold Isis and then Nero on glove is locked into my soul.
- It keeps me grounded and helps me think. In May of 2009, I took on the job of K12 Co-Executive Director and I still am Athena, our barred owl's, housekeeping staff. When you are cleaning out an owl's enclosure in sub-zero weather, your mind can calm down and you are reminded of the bottom line of why you do the rest of your job and the dedication of our staff.



Our volunteer program has transformed this year with the help of our board members, new directors and staff. If you are interested in volunteering some time please contact us. We are interested to hear about your areas of expertise and we have a growing list of specific jobs we could use your help. We do not have a minimum hour requirement. Any amount of time would be a great asset.

Ways you can support the Audubon Center of the North Woods

- **Become a member**
- **Friend a Wild Critter** program donations
- **In-Kind donations** - See our current 'Wish Lists' on page 4 for items we need.
- **Memorial donations**
- **Scholarship donations**
- **'Give to the Max' Day matching grants**
- **Legacy gifts and IRA transfers**
- **Planned Giving and Bequests**
- **Volunteer**
- **Help us market our programs.** If you have outlets where you can put up a flyer or share information on any of our programs, let us know. Participate in our programs, our special events, and our courses. Visit us, bring others and introduce your friends to us.

For more info on how you can help, visit the support page of our website or give us a call

Help Wanted!

Non-profits like the Audubon Center of the North Woods depend upon volunteers who generously give their time, energy and skills to help us succeed. We would welcome your assistance in any of the following areas. Interested? Contact Heidi (320-245-2648 or audubon1@audubon-center.org) to discuss helping with any of the following tasks. She will provide you with any requirements or special skills needed and set you up with task-specific leader. Thank you!

SPECIFIC- one time tasks

- Mount hooks and install grommets for dining hall window coverings (during slide programs only)
- Scan slides and photos to disk
- Transfer videos to DVD
- Create a photo album of events for staff reference with visitors
- Sew lightweight, pocketless, zipperless vests with ACNW logos for volunteer use at community events
- Research how to make retired climbing rope into useful objects
- Web Development Assistance - help with CMS web build and website functionality, including e-commerce, assist with CRM database functionality
- Flash mentor - short-term assistance in getting marketing coordinator up to speed on the efficient use of Adobe Flash

SPECIFIC- ongoing

- Grant Research and Submission Assistance – paper and online search/research for potential grant opportunities, periodic compilation and submission of grant applications.
- Online Marketing Assistance - regular submission of material for online calendars

GENERAL HELP - ongoing

- Fill bird feeders
- Substitute teach EE programs
- Belaying for climbing wall or high ropes (after training)
- Care of barn and critters
- Transport orphaned/injured animals

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS - ongoing and one-time projects

- Split and stack wood
- Interior and exterior painting walls
- Building woodsheds
- Building benches
- Replacing tile floor with wood laminate
- Build cinderblock compost system
- Grooming xc ski trails with snowmobile
- Budcap young white pines
- Carpet cleaning

ON-SITE EVENTS

- Bus tables, help serve food, wash dishes
- Direct parking
- Assist with Open House/Trail Run logistics

Alumni News

New Arrivals

Former intern Menka Bihari (international intern 2005/2006) and her husband celebrated the birth of their son, Mrigasya (a name from Hindu mythology referring to Lord Shiva) in mid-December.

Former interns Alex Mastrionni and Amy Chang (interns 1998/1999) welcomed their daughter, Luna Fong-li Mastroianni, to the world in mid-November.

Congratulations to both sets of proud parents!

If you are an alumni and have some news to share about your life, please send an email to us at fenner@audubon-center.org – we'd love to share the info with our readers.

ACNW Core Values

- We demonstrate respect, care and passion for the earth, all people and all living things
- We strive for excellence in everything we do through integrity, open communication and teamwork
- Individuals are valued, engaged and appreciated for their unique contributions
- We believe in life-long learning through positive shared experiences with the natural world
- Our efforts encourage others to recognize their interconnectedness with the earth through their actions

Adopt an Intern... Whether home is an hour away or half the earth away, it is a treat for our interns to have a closer "family" to spend some time with. Though they have great meals, live next to the lake, and form a family with our staff, it is a welcome change to be off the Audubon grounds on occasion. If you are interested in matching up with one of our interns for a home cooked meal, evening fish, relaxing at your house, puppy sitting for you, or whatever simple activity you like, then please let us know and we will send you their contact information. You will soon find, as we do, that they provide a spark of energy in your life and fun source of learning for all. Call us at 320-245-2648 or email audubon1@audubon-center.org if interested. Thank you!

Thank You!

We would like to acknowledge and thank all those individuals and companies who have contributed to the Audubon Center of the North Woods (since our last newsletter) as well as the schools who visited us this academic year. Through your support and patronage, we are able to provide the best environmental education opportunities for people of all ages.

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To instill a connection and commitment to the environment in people of all communities through experiential learning.

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