



Audubon Center of the North Woods

A proud leader in environmental education and renewable energy

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News from the North Woods

Volume 33, Issue 2—Fall 2007

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Mail, call or email us your inquiries and ideas.

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Join Us...Become a Friend to the Audubon Center

If you received this newsletter in the mail, you are already a member, or you are someone who has attended one of our programs recently.

With a membership in the Audubon Center of the North Woods, you receive this publication, a 10% discount off merchandise in our store, our regular e-newsletter (optional), invitations to special events, and the knowledge that your support lets us continue to provide quality environmental educations to thousands of people every year.

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OTTERS	\$100-249	OSPREY	\$1000+
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Fall 2007

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Upcoming Events

- Open House & Sustainable Living Expo, Sept. 29
- Fall Women's Wellness & Adventure Weekend, Oct. 5-7
- Winter Family Escape—Northern Lights in the North Woods, Dec. 27-30
- January Interim—Wolf & Lynx Ecology, Jan 3-20, 2008
- Earth Day Festival, April 19, 2008
- Spring Women's Wellness & Adventure, May 2-4, 2008
- Wilderness Advanced First Aid, May 23-27, 2008
- North Woods Wilderness School summer camps, June & July 2008
- 3rd Annual Birding Festival, June 6-8, 2008

Audubon Center of the North Woods



News from the North Woods

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Becoming Elders

by Mike Link, Executive Director

Kate and I have been reflecting on how the Baby Boomer generation, as grandparents, could change our society and the definition of extended family roles. We know that our decisions now revolve around Aren, Ryan, Matthew, and Annalise as we look at education, family trees and society through a filter that has them in the center. They are important new motivations for protecting the earth and saving our resources for future generations.

At the Audubon Center we have been working with this *demographic* - sorry grandparents - the word sounds so cold and grandparenting *is* anything but. We celebrate the times shared with our grandchildren, the laughter, the loving call of 'grandpa' or 'grandma' in our grandchildren's voice. The touch of their hand holding our fingers, the trust they put in us is part of the reward of our age. They extend our lives and open the world up again as they allow us to see new perspectives we may have lost in our aging and the demands that the world puts on us. They give us a fresh, new perspective and that is the greatest gift we can receive.

But what is the best gift we can give them? This is a topic I have discussed with many people. Kate and I have tried to reflect on the presents we received from our grandparents and draw a blank, but I do remember picking blackberries with my grandmother, going the creamery with my grandfather, the box of candy in the third

drawer on the right side of his desk, Grandma's sugar cookies, playing catch... Kate also remembers the times shared with her grandmother's traditional Sunday dinner, trips to the Farmer's Market, and helping in her garden. Other people I have asked remember events and images, but so far no particular presents given at birthdays or Christmas. What does that tell me? It says grandparents are not checkbooks and chauffeurs. We are here to share wisdom, love, insight, and most of all, time - the most precious of all gifts.



Grandma Kate with Aren & Ryan Carlson

To help do this, we have developed a very special intergenerational program with Elderhostel, Inc. in the summer and a Holiday Family camp at New Years. With the help of a caring and energetic staff, you can share fun, a sense of place and discovery. You can give your grandchild the greatest of all gifts - your wisdom, your time, and your love, all rolled into one. Think about this for your family and if you cannot attend one of our events, make sure

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Mail to: Audubon Center of the North Woods, PO Box 530, Sandstone, MN 55072

Amount I Wish to Give _____
Friendship Category _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip or Country Code _____

Email address (for eNewsletter, optional) _____

Check enclosed

Charge my credit card for \$ _____

CC # _____

Exp. Date _____

Card type (circle one)

Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express

Signature _____

Contact me about a planned gift



Nero—our new American Kestrel

Meet Our New Education Raptors

by Jeff Tyson, Wildlife Coordinator

The Audubon Center is pleased to announce two new staff members to the education department.

“Nero” is a 2 year old male American Kestrel. Nero is a human imprint originally from Kentucky but recently transferred from the Raptor Education Group. Nero is named not for the Roman Emperor but for another Kestrel. John James Audubon kept a male Kestrel as a pet he named “Nero”.

Audubon writes “I took it home, named it Nero, and provided it with small birds, at which it would scramble fiercely, although yet unable to tear the flesh, in which I assisted it. In a few weeks it grew very beautiful, and became so voracious, requiring a great number of birds daily, that I turned it out to see how it would shift for itself.”¹

Audubon’s kestrel hung around his house hunting grasshoppers, other insects and the occasional bird Audubon provided.

“Ciça” is a 4 year old red-phase Eastern Screech Owl. Ciça is originally from Kentucky and has a head injury, she was also transferred from the Raptor Education Group.

Ciça is named for a former Audubon Center wildlife intern, Ciça Dorfey, who trained and cared for our last Screech Owl, Rupert. Ciça did a great deal to improve Rupert’s life and was delighted to hear a red-phase Screech Owl would now share her name.

¹ From *John James Audubon: The Making of an American*, by Richard Rhodes, 2004.



Ciça—our new Eastern Screech Owl

The Audubon Center would like to thank the following organizations that contributed financially to the new raptor mews: BirdxBird, Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter, St. Paul Audubon Chapter, Minnesota Ornithologists Union, St. Anne’s School, Marshall School, Central Minnesota Audubon Chapter, and everyone who adopted a raptor over the last year.

We would also like to thank Lori Arent and Gail Buhl from The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota for their help with the design process of the new mews.

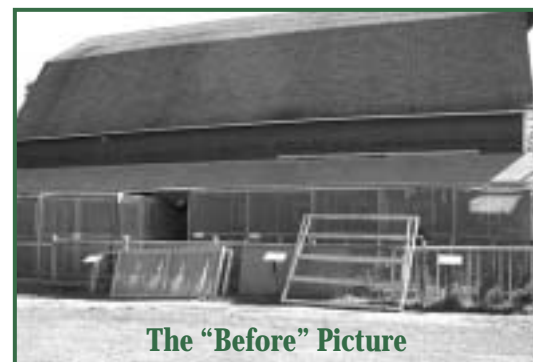
Help support the care of Nero or Ciça or any of our other resident education raptors through our “Adopt a Raptor” program. Your donation goes towards housing, medical care, food and enrichment items, to help encourage natural behavior in the birds.

As part of the adoption process, you will receive a 5x7 framed photo of the bird, an “Adoption Certificate”, a personal history of “your” bird, recognition in our newsletter, and a tour of the ACNW wildlife facility.

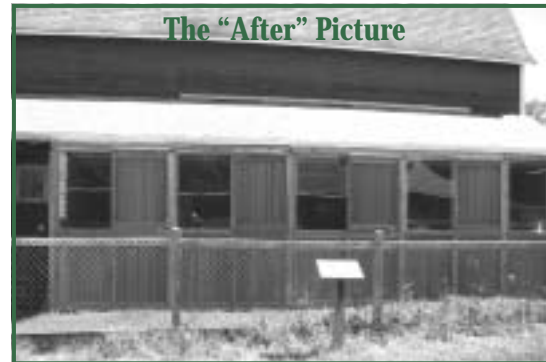
For more information, please contact Jeff Tyson, our Wildlife Coordinator or visit our website.

New Raptor Mews at ACNW

The Audubon Center was able to replace all seven raptor mews (enclosures) this August. The mews were in desperate need of replacement. The new mews will keep the birds safer from natural predators, be easier to clean, and provide visitors with a better view through viewing windows.



The “Before” Picture



The “After” Picture

Thank You! Donations, Memberships & Memorials

We would like to acknowledge and thank all those individuals and companies who have contributed to the Audubon Center of the North Woods. Through your support, we are able to provide the best environmental education opportunities for people of all ages.

Owls

- Dan & Rhonda Belzile
- Betsy Danielson & Jerry Kolter
- Nancy Dunn
- Susan Hanke
- Gary & Gayle Hoxmeier
- Cliff & Betty Johnson
- Dean & Cherie Johnson
- Dale & Jo Nelson
- Keith Newman
- Michael Storbakken
- Jim & Cynthia Webb

Cranes

- Mary Deming
- Dale Hammerschmidt & Mary Arneson
- Sam Rankin
- Betty Schoonover

Otters

- John Andrus, III
- Jim & Cynthia Jarocki
- Dean & Deloris Madison
- Elaine Thurmes

Loons

- George Skinner & Anne Hanley

Moose

- Mr & Mrs James Gillespie

Eagle

- Donald L. Janes

Osprey

- Gene Steele
- Walter McCarthy & Clara Ueland

Memorial

In Memory Of Ruth Karl:

- Jean Beck
- Karol Gresser
- John & Patricia Telfer

In Memory Of Jane Spence:

- Harvey & Patricia Djerf
- Karol Gresser
- Elaine Harff
- Albert & Virginia Milun
- Gary E. Olson
- Gladys Olson
- Joy Ramaley
- Robert & Marilyn Roach
- John & Patricia Telfer

In Memory Of Henriette Fey:

- Steven & Judith Seidmeyer

Adopt A Raptor

- Alice C. Murry
- Marshall School

EcoRV

- Betsy Johnston
- Norman Arthur

In-Kind Donations

- Chris' Food Center
- Dick & Connie Glattly
- Nancy Jackson
- Alex Johnston
- Moose Lake Industries
- Arden Wetzal
- Don & Eleanor Yaste

Many Thanks

To Marshall School in Duluth (6th grade class) for raising and donating \$383.73 to adopt and support our birds of prey, as well as a wolf study program. After visiting the Center last year and learning about our Wildlife Program the students (then 5th graders) decided to take action and find a way to help support that program. The students baked and sold cookies, and stocked a gumball machine.

We are very impressed with their thoughtfulness and appreciative of this effort. It tells us that the younger generation, students who will one day be responsible for important decisions relating to wildlife, are already concerned and thinking about creatures that depend upon us for their survival.

Your support of the Audubon Center of the North Woods comes in a variety of different forms including seven different levels of membership, contributions to our Adopt-A-Raptor program, In-Kind donations, Memorial donations, Scholarship donations, and Planned Giving.

To become a member, see the next page. For more on how you can help support the Audubon Center of the North Woods, visit our website at www.audubon-center.org or give us a call at 320-245-2648.

—'Summer Camp' continued from page 4—

level; complimented by a thematic focus that connects both ecology and wilderness skills. Some of the wilderness skills that will be taught include: animal tracking, fire-making using a variety of materials and techniques, shelter building strategies with an overnight, plant I.D. and usage, basic wilderness first aid, wilderness navigation, and outdoor cooking.

Each camp will be aligned with the appropriate MN State Academic Standards, so schools are invited to take advantage of this opportunity by seeking summer school funding.

Richard Louv, author of the book, *Last Child in the Woods*, was quoted in the article, *Wilderness Kids*. "There's a real awakening going on. Parents and educators are starting to understand how important outdoor education is, and they're getting innovative with programming." The Audubon Center of the North Woods is a leader in this type of innovative programming, and through our North Woods Wilderness School we hope to provide a *different* kind of summer camp experience that will ignite both a passion and an ethic of care for the earth.

2008 North Woods Wilderness School

June 15-17
8- and 9-year olds
Dirt, Rocks & Worms

June 15-20
10- and 11-year olds
Nature's Nightlife & Crepuscular Creatures

June 22-27
12- and 13-year olds
Where the Wild Things Are

July 6-12
14- thru 17-year olds
Boundary Waters Biomes

Each camp will be aligned with the appropriate MN State Academic Standards, so schools are invited to take advantage of this opportunity by seeking summer school funding.

—'Becoming Elders' continued from page 1—

you share your love of nature and the connection you have found with the world around you - it is an investment in your grandchild and the future of the world.

Mike and Kate's two new books – *Grandparents Minnesota Style* and *Grandparents Wisconsin Style* are available from our gift store and make excellent gifts to grandparents, both new and experienced. When you buy from our store you help support the Center as well. Watch our website as our online store becomes more prominent in the coming months.

DID YOU KNOW?

Electric lights soak up around a fifth of the electricity industrialized countries consume. By replacing incandescent bulbs with energy-efficient ones, we could cut the US's annual electricity bill by \$18 billion, and cut CO2 emissions by 158 million tons, according to Phillips, a Dutch company which launched a campaign in Washington DC in March 2007 to scrap all inefficient lighting in North America by 2016.

New Scientist March 2007

If you have kids going back to school, or if you're like me and still carry a backpack regularly, you should check out www.earthpak.com. This site highlights a U.S. company that makes a wide variety of packs with recycled plastic bottles. In fact, for each bag, you are told how many plastic bottles were reused. These bags are cool enough for a college student (some designed to carry laptops), sturdy enough for the elementary student and eco-conscious enough for everyone.

Consider the Audubon Center when planning your holiday party or banquet

Give us a call at 320-245-2628 to reserve our beautiful lakeside dining hall with gorgeous stone fireplace for your next big event! With seating up to 200 and fantastic meals customized to your menu, it is sure to be a very enjoyable event that your guests will long remember!

Our wonderful chef, Tom Stelter, has an extensive background in the restaurant business, most recently at the Grand Casino in Hinckley. He will work with you to select a customized banquet menu, prepared fresh to satisfy every palate. Meals include a variety of exceptional cuisine with a focus on locally grown or organic items.



Introducing Jaime Souza — Our New Science and Curriculum Coordinator



Jaime Souza—Science and Curriculum Coordinator

My name is Jaime Souza, and I am "the newbie" at the Audubon Center of the North Woods. In June, I moved from North Texas, where I spent the past year assisting in the development of an Environmental Education Program at a new YMCA camp. It was an amazing experience but I learned that you can take the girl out of Minnesota, but you can't take Minnesota out of the girl; and therefore, I began searching for a way to come home. And there is no place where I felt more at home than the Audubon Center of the North Woods, where I spent time as a graduate student through Hamline University.

Since my first visit to the Audubon Center, I have hoped that one day I would have the opportunity to join the staff team. That day arrived in early May, when I was offered a full time position as Science and Curriculum Coordinator.

I am honored and excited to be part of the future of the Audubon Center and I look forward to carrying out the mission of the Center through the tasks I have been assigned. My duties include aligning our entire K-12 curriculum with Minnesota State Academic Standards, updating the curriculum so that it reflects a more inquiry-based and student-centered approach, integrating current scientific data and research into the curriculum, reporting updates to the Center's Education and Curriculum Committee, coordinating summer camps, teaching, and marketing our educational outreach programs.

Raptor Wish List

Over the years you have either read about or actually been at the Audubon Center and met our beautiful educational birds of prey. Our Wildlife Coordinator Jeff Tyson has been working very hard since he came on board last year to upgrade the barn facilities where these birds live. They are an integral part of our programming at the Center - ambassadors from the animal world, who are no longer able to survive on their own in the wild. They make an immediate and lasting impression on those who see them up close and hear their stories. Their care and maintenance is of the utmost importance to us and very costly. Funding for their care comes out of our general budget and whatever monies are donated specifically for them. Jeff has created a Wish List of items that are very much needed to make sure that our birds are healthy and that our educational goals continue to be met.

- Autoclave
- 220 V Electric Oven (please call for dimensions first)
- Clothes Drying Rack
- 3/4" Manila Rope (whole spool)
- 1/2" Manila Rope (whole spool)
- 1/4" Manila Rope (whole spool)
- Raptor Food For a Month \$150
- Non-frayed Bath Towels
- Bird/Wildlife Art Work

ACNW Wish List

In the past, we have had donations of vehicles – and each one has been a great help to us. All these gifts are tax deductible. Bikes have been donated for intern and participant use. Do you have any equipment that is in good working condition you no longer need that could help the Center? If so, please contact us at 888/404-7743 or audubon1@audubon-center.org.

Of greatest need: 3/4 ton diesel engine pick-up truck that can be used to plow snow (*We'd like to convert it to run on waste vegetable oil*)

We could also very much use the following:

- 10 foot or 12 foot step ladder
- utility trailer
- scaffolding
- pressure sprayer
- small portable generator
- industrial-size washer & dryer
- working DVD players
- roto tiller
- large glazed planting pots
- snowmobile for trail grooming
- pontoon boat
- electric golf cart (we plan to put solar panel on the roof)
- twin size mattresses in good condition
- trees, shrubs, garden plants
- two (new or good condition used) pedestal sinks – for *Schwytzer Lodge*
- binoculars
- power point projector
- digital video camera
- computers - 512 MB, 1 GHz min.
- apple cider press

Summer Camp—Past and Present

by Jaime Souza

Summer Camp 2007 – Sensational & Awesome

In June, our summer staff welcomed 47 summer campers – 16 high school students for Sensational Science Camp and 30 elementary school students for Awesome Adventure Camp. Campers traveled from all over Minnesota and from as far away as Chicago and Massachusetts. Riverway and Aurora Charter Schools sent students and two supervisors from each school for the week of camp.



2007 Sensational Science campers at the Kettle River

Science campers participated in a variety of ecology/biology classes, such as Wildlife Rehabilitation, Bird Calls and Surveying, and Dragonflies and Damselflies. Adventure campers improved their canoe skills throughout the week in order to prepare for an overnight canoe packing trip.

As the week came to a close, the Audubon staff were reminded about the value of “summer camp.” We all reflected upon our own camp experiences as we witnessed our campers paddle together for the first time, bravely make it across high ropes elements after displaying self-doubt, initiate an intercampus soccer game, play like kids should play among the rocks at Banning State Park, and not be afraid to show their tears when the time came to say goodbye.

Back at school this fall, when asked what they did this summer, our campers will tell about their memorable week at the Audubon Center and *that* is why we look forward to another summer of camps in 2008.

Summer 2008 – Redefining Summer Camp

In the most recent Backpacker Magazine, an article by Tom Clynes, titled, *Wilderness Kids*, began by stating that, “summer camp is for sissies.” As a long-time summer camper, I started to take offense to that introduction, but I decided to continue reading. “Just ask the 13 teens who swore off My Space and other modern contrivances on a six-month, 600 mile wilderness expedition.”

13 teens swore off My Space for an expedition!? I was hooked, and read on to discover that this unique group of teenagers was participating in the Vermont Semester, a program started by Misha Golfman, Director of Kroka Expeditions Adventure Camp. He created the program to revitalize traditional wilderness skills that are rarely taught or passed down to young people. His students learn basic, practical skills; ax handling, navigation, winter nutrition, first aid and survival. Golfman explained in the article why he created this program and why he believes these are critical skills for young people to learn.

“Every year, I see more children on medication, and younger ones wearing glasses and contact lenses. We are becoming dependent on mechanical crutches. I think the real-world skills we are losing will turn out to be more necessary than we ever could have imagined.”

It is my belief that Misha Golfman would truly agree that summer camp is not for sissies and that it is necessary to get as many young people outside and into the woods as possible. In fact, he would support ACNW’s efforts in offering meaningful nature experiences to people of all ages. It is our goal to continue to improve our summer camp program, and we hope to accomplish this goal by reintroducing the North Woods Wilderness School for the summer of 2008 and beyond. We will offer several weeks of camp, with each week advancing in age and skill

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January Interim 2008: January 3-20, 2008

Wolf & Lynx Ecology in Northern Minnesota

The grey wolf has long excited the human imagination. Minnesota, with approximately 3000 wolves, is home to the largest population of wolves in the lower 48 states and is the center of a good deal of the research on the wolf. Countries around the world as well as other states look to Minnesota as an example of how wolves and humans can co-exist in relative harmony.

During our January Interim course, students work on two wolf projects during the course: one to determine pack numbers, territories, and behavior through tracking surveys along the Minnesota/Wisconsin border. The second, to determine wolf pack size, territory, and activities on the historic Jonvick Deer Yard along the North Shore of Lake Superior (Lutsen, MN). This will be the 3rd year we will be collecting data on Canada lynx in the area in cooperation with the Superior National Forest and other agencies.

Preparation for surveys will include activities and training sessions on :

- Wolf ecology
- Lynx ecology
- Habitat analysis
- Winter survival and safety
- Research tracking techniques
- Aerial flights to observe radio-collared wolves
- Snowshoeing
- Cross-country skiing



Instructor: Mike Link, Executive Director of the Audubon Center. Course Fee: \$1599, includes all room, instruction and most meals. Tuition for credit is arranged through your own institution.

From the Associate Dean of Faculty at Buena Vista University - Storm Lake, Iowa, referring to students returning from January Interim:

“She is still just ‘lit on fire’ by the experience and the things she saw and learned. She showed me pictures, work completed, etc. She is SO excited! I thought you needed to hear what a difference you, and this program, made in two BVU students lives. ...her passion is just contagious!”

Plan now for our next Annual Birding Festival— June 8-10, 2008



Our second annual Birding Festival was a success! The weather was perfect and highlights were a pair of GRAY JAYS along Net Lake Road, numerous BLACKBURNIAN WARBLERS singing from the spruce tops, impossible to find singing BAY-BREASTED WARBLERS in the really thick stuff, a pair of MOURNING WARBLERS on territory, numerous calling GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLERS, and LINCOLN'S SPARROWS in the bog. Blooms that were seen included Boreal Trout Lilies, Columbine, and Labrador Tea.

All the evaluations indicated that it was a fun, positive experience for everyone and there was much interest in returning next summer, so mark your calendars now for June 8-10th, 2008 when the Audubon Center will host its third annual Birding Festival. We are happy to report that the excellent field trip leaders who were with us this year - Mark Alt, Peter Neubeck, Anne Hanley, and George Skinner will be back next year. We will offer field trips to local hot spots, as well as exhibits and other break out sessions and activities. Stay “tuned” for more information and check our website for updates.

Alumni News

If you are an alumni and have some news to share about your life, please write to the editor (crowley@audubon-center.org) and fill us in. We'd like to share that information with our membership.

Congratulations on New Arrivals to:

Tony Murphy (International Intern '91 and Board President '03) and wife **Kate Kelsch** (Intern '92) on the arrival of Sheamus – born April 24th, weighing 7 lbs and measuring 19 inches. Parents and baby are doing well and getting used to a new world order.



Alyssa and Troy Carlson on the birth of Annalise Marie – born on May 10, weighing 9 lbs 9 oz and measuring 19 inches. Grandparents Kate Crowley and Mike Link are thrilled to now have a granddaughter. The family recently moved to their new home in Cheyenne, WY and hope life will settle into a regular routine soon.



Annie Scherz (International intern and intern Coordinator) and **Rodney Fuentes** (International trainee) on the birth of Lucia



– July 30. She weighed in a 7 lbs 1 oz. She was welcomed home by faithful canine Baloo. Parents report that the changes in their little girl since her arrival have been “unreal and we are already trying to slow down time.....”

Kudos

To Natalia Ortega – Spanish AFS daughter of Mike Link and Kate Crowley and summer staff ('97, '99, '03) who has been working in San Miguel, Mexico for the last two years in Environmental Education. In April, she and her coworkers officially presented the book they wrote on the subject to the government. They have been told by the State Ecology Department that they will now be doing environmental education workshops for 900 teachers in their state.

To Former Board members – Pat and Jack Telfer and Current Board member – Mary Ellen Vetter on receiving Lifetime Achievement Awards from Audubon Minnesota. All three of these individuals have invested uncounted hours and energy into the Audubon cause – both in their local

chapters and with the Audubon Center. They are well deserving of this honor.

New Jobs

Dumile Tshingana – Naturalist intern ('03-'04) is now back in South Africa and having fun with his new job as the Education Outreach specialist for SAEON (South African Environmental Observation Network), taking environmental science to communities. His focus is marine education Long Term Monitoring and Observation (LTER SCHOOLYARD PROGRAMS). He and wife Joy are also the parents of 18-mo old Vuyo – which means happiness in Xhosa. His middle name is Gentoo, a resident breeding penguin species at Marion island, where Dumile did research. He says that Vuyo walks like a gentoo. This is Dumile's favorite sea bird.



Tracy Gilliland Jackson (Naturalist Intern '05-'06) is now living with husband Dave in Colorado Springs, CO. She is in Graduate school and says, “The people are great, the classes are hard!” She starts student teaching in August at a local High School and expects “the roller coaster ride” that is her life right now, “won't stop 'till June”.

Katie Kleese (Naturalist Intern '05-'06) has taken a promotion with the same organization – US PIRG – that she worked for last year, only now she will be living and working in Portland, OR. This position, she feels, really gives her “the best opportunity to do something new, have fun, challenge myself, have a big impact on the organization, and work with some really great people”.

Dinners at the Lake

Our Dinners at the Lake have become more popular each year, with delicious cuisine in a beautiful setting and informative, entertaining programs that follow the meals. Space is limited, so call early to reserve your place (888/404-7743) - reservations are required. We have lodging available for those who drive from the Twin Cities and don't wish to drive home after the program—call ahead to reserve. Be sure to check our website for updates and program changes, which can occur on short notice. Cost: \$20/adult; \$10/children 5-12. Appetizers at 6 pm, dinner at 6:30 pm, program following dinner.

2007/2008 Dinner at the Lake Schedule

- October 13 ... Jim Ramsdell – Wooden Bird Carver & Nature Educator**
- November 17 ... Kathleen Weflen – Editor of MN Volunteer**
- December 31 ... to be announced—watch our website for updates**
- January 19 ... to be announced—watch our website for updates**
- February 16 ... to be announced—watch our website for updates**
- March 15 ... to be announced—watch our website for updates**
- April 19 ... Hummingbirds with Donald Mitchell**
- May 11 (Sunday) ... Mother's Day Brunch – 11:30 a.m.**



Sunday Brunches

Our highly popular and successful Sunday brunches return this fall. Price remains \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids 5-12, under 5 free. No reservations needed. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Fall Sunday Brunch Schedule

- September 16, 23, 30**
- October 14, 21**
- November 4, 11, 18, 25**
- December 2, 9, 16, 30**

New NOAA Weather Station Installed



If you've visited us lately, you are probably wondering what that odd collection of equipment is out there in the restored prairie to the left of our entrance. This is our new NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) weather climate station, just one of many stations that are now part of the U.S. Climate Reference Network (CRN). It was put in place last June. This program was developed by scientists to improve the ability of America's decision-makers to form policies about programs impacted by climate variability and change. The primary goal of CRN is to provide data that can be used to study weather change in the long-term through observations of temperature and precipitation to detect present and future climate change.

NOAA's Climatic Data Center (NCDC) posts the observations online in near real-time to users around the world. The instruments at the site are designed to measure the following climate related parameters:

- Air temperature
- Wind speed
- Precipitation
- Surface temp
- Solar radiation
- Relative humidity

To view current data from our NOAA weather station, go to www.ncdc.noaa.gov/crn/hourly: Scroll down to MN Sandstone to view temp and precipitation. Clicking on MN Sandstone takes you to our station's page where you can click on either: 'Sensor Data' = all the elements reporting; 'Last 12 hours' = calculated temp and precip for each of the preceding 12 hours; 'Last available observation date and time' = latest temp and precipitation.

The new Web site, www.ClimateClassroom.org, sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation, is designed to help parents and teachers talk to students of differing ages about global warming. Two main educational challenges are addressed: a) presenting global warming in a way that does not upset children (particularly very young children) and b) educating them in accordance with their developmental capacity to absorb complex information.

Its features include: guidelines for parents, proposed new national global warming educator guidelines, age-adapted sources of useful curricula, a downloadable slide presentation for kids, a presenter's guide and more.

A Day of Free, Family Fun...Stop on by!

Audubon Center of the North Woods Presents:

2007 Open House & Sustainable Living Expo

Saturday, September 29
9 am - 4 pm

Join us for a free, fun day filled with activities and programs for all ages!

Learn more about the concept of Sustainable Living and how small changes in your lifestyle and your home save you money, simplify your life, increase your self-sufficiency and help protect the earth. A variety of exhibits and demonstrations will be available throughout the day to provide you with a wealth of information on sustainable living.

For the young and young at heart, there will be adventure opportunities like our climbing wall and zip line, as well as our nature scavenger hunt, face painting and other fun learning activities such as making recycled artworks and pressing apple cider. Lunch with live music will be available.

There will also be a dedication of our new raptor mews, with wildlife programs all-day long.

New this Year – Art & Craft Fair

A number of skilled artisans and craftspeople will be on hand throughout the day to demonstrate their skills as well as sell their products.

Back this year – The Audubon Center Fall Yard Sale

Everything from clothes and household stuff to bird houses and sports equipment for sale.

**Both will be open from 9-4.
Don't miss it!**



Tentative schedule of events
(subject to change)

- All day long
Face painting, Nature scavenger hunt, Apple cider pressing
- 9-11:30 am
Exhibits and demonstrations
- 9:30-noon
Recycled art
- 9:30-noon
Wildlife classroom open
- 9:30-noon
Climbing wall
- 10-11:30
Walking tours
- Noon-1PM
Optional Chili Feed lunch with live music (\$5/person)
- 1:30 pm
Dedication of raptor mews
- 1:45-3:30
Exhibits & demonstrations
- 2-3:30
Walking tours
- 2-4:00
Wildlife classroom open
- 2-4:00
"Zipping" on the high ropes course
- 2-4:00
Recycled art
- 9am-4pm
**Fall Yard Sale
Art & Craft Fair**

Winter Family Escape—December 27-30, 2007

Northern Lights in the North Woods



Aurora Borealis – one of the most mysterious, wondrous sights one can see in the Northern skies. Another name for this incredible spectacle is "The Northern Lights." This winter, the Audubon Center of the North Woods invites you and your family to explore this beautiful phenomenon. Not only will your family discover the reason for an Aurora, you will also experience its influences on our human culture.

The activities your family will participate in during your stay at the Audubon Center will be centered around several themes: Northern Lights, light in general and its various sources, astronomy, wildlife, classic MN winter sports, winter survival, and the North Woods.

Your accommodations will include a private room and bath for each family. Home-cooked meals are served in our spacious dining room with its beautiful stone fireplace.

All-inclusive. \$195.00 for adults, \$155.00 for children 5-18 year old, and there is no charge for children 4 and under. Families of 4 = \$660; families of 5 or more = \$760. Non-refundable deposit of \$100.00 to reserve your family's spot. Register early, as space is limited!

Deadline for registration: December 1st.

To register: call 888/404-7743 or

e-mail audubon1@audubon-center.org

Sample Activities Include:

- Adventures in Auroras
- Hands-on light-up circuitry activities with staff from The Bakken Museum
- Candle Light Hike/Ski (Weather Dependent)
- Astronomy Program with Stargazing
- Super Star Family Skit/Talent Show with Campfire
- Concert by our very own Bryan Wood
- Aurora Art Projects
- Snow activities: snowshoeing, sledding, snow sculpture contest, quinzhee building, sleigh rides



Reserve early for Spring Women's Wellness Weekend—May 2-4, 2008

Women's Wellness Weekends are becoming increasingly popular and this fall's event (Oct. 5-7) is now full. These complete holistic adventure weekends provide women of all ages the opportunity to sample a variety of physical, mental, and spiritual activities. If you are planning on attending our Spring Women's Wellness Weekend—May 2-4, 2008, be sure to reserve your spot early! Visit www.audubon-center.org or give us a call at 888-404-7743 for more information.