

News from the North Woods

Summer 2010

Volume 36, Issue 2

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Upcoming Events

- Concert at the Lake
June 12
- Summer Exploritas
June 13-18
- 'Hooked' Family Fishing Weekend
July 8-11
- Forts, Fires & Fishing
July 11-16
- Voyageurs National Park
July 18-23
- Becoming an Outdoor Family
July 31-August 1
- Rocks, Ropes & Roughing It
August 1-6
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August 1-6
- Namekagon River Expedition
August 8-12
- Summer Exploritas
August 29 - September 3
- Annual Open House &
Renewable Trail Run
October 9
- Women's Wellness Weekend
October 1-3

A proud leader in environmental education and renewable energy

A Change of Seasons

by Bryan Wood, Co-Director

A lot has been happening at the Audubon Center of the North Woods over this winter and spring. Our January Interim class on Wolves and Predatory Ecology drew 26 students from colleges across the country and was a huge success, with many students saying it was the best class they have ever taken. Our Dinners at the Lake have been at capacity for great programs from presenters such as Lynn Rogers, Mike Link and Kate Crowley, and Bruce Giebink. Our community "Candlelight Ski, Snowshoe and Skate" evening tripled in the number of participants from our inaugural program last winter. In addition, we are pleased to welcome 5 new K-12 schools that brought their students to the Center for residential environmental learning experiences for the first time.



This spring has been one for the record books weather-wise. The snow cover was gone by the end of the first week of March. Across the state, this marked the first time in 130 years that snow did not fall in the month of March. The ice out on Grindstone Lake occurred on April 2nd (the second earliest since 1970), and we were done tapping maple trees before April, the first time that has ever happened in our decades of maple syrup making. These occurrences remind us that we are living in a time of environmental change. The early onset of spring has implications for all species that live in the North Woods. One example is the migration of birds, who over thousands of years have timed

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Another Peak Experience

by Melonie Shipman, Co-Director

Recently when giving a program about sled dogs in Lakeville, MN, I shared how meaningful it can be to drive one's own dog team. Each of the five women on our four-day trek had experienced significant adventures: tending tiger cubs in China, touring Antarctica, and more. Yet, when we arrived at our lodge exhausted, aching, and soaking from a night run in unexpected freezing drizzle, we each said, "This has been one of peak experiences of my life." Later one of the program attendees asked what other peak experiences were on my list. In an amazingly blessed life, there were many to choose from: touching the baleen of a gray whale who positioned herself beside our tiny boat, seeing the Northern Lights

dance at Denali many times, hiking the south island of New Zealand for three weeks with my best friend.

Now I have another peak experience to add – being asked to serve, with Bryan Wood, as Co-Director of the Audubon Center of the North Woods. I know well the commute to the Audubon Center from our home on Knife Lake. Last summer, I visited the Audubon Center for the first time.

I excitedly told my best friend, "What a hidden treasure! The Audubon Center shouts 'the talk' of environmental stewardship: wind turbine

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Tales from a Trainer

Ever been outwitted by a bird? I am... daily.

by Emily Lorenzen

Many of you know that 3 years ago, ACNW acquired a common raven. He was initially housed in an enclosure underneath a flight of steps leading to our climbing wall. Our raven was lovingly named Potter, a reference to the famous literary wizard. Since living under the stairs was neither comfortable for Harry nor our own Potter, Château Corvidea was built - complete with waterfall. Potter was moved into one of two available suites. The other enclosure would stay empty for months while we waited for an American crow, which would become the newest member of our bird-brained family.

I started at ACNW at the end of August 2009, and eagerly awaited the day I would become the Corvid trainer and caretaker. I have always been enamored with the intelligence of jays, crows, and ravens, or the Corvidae Family. The opportunity to interact with these birds was a dream come true. Potter was a lot of fun to work with, but as he is an older bird and is uneasy around people, and can be difficult to work with. Then finally one November day word came, a crow had been approved! I got to drive to the airport and pick-up a juvenile American crow from Vermont. A couple had decided to take this crow from the nest, and raise it in a parakeet cage, feeding it milk, and worms. Hopefully you all will realize this is not an appropriate diet for any bird, especially a crow. The crow had been confiscated from this couple; it is illegal to keep wild birds as pets.

A rehabilitation center deemed the crow was malnourished, 20% smaller than it should have been, and habituated to humans. This meant it was not fit to be released. Proper paperwork and a few weeks later, Mob the Crow came to live at ACNW. We chose the name Mob, because crows are well known for mobbing other birds, especially owls.

Mob quickly became the love of my life and my first opportunity to really train a Corvid. Within a week of Mob's arrival, I



learned the true intelligence of these birds. My first goal was to make sure Mob continued eating after the stress of travel and a new living quarter. Every time Mob would eat something, I would reward him with a mealworm (these are the cat's meow to crows).

I was sitting in Mob's enclosure, as I often did those first

weeks, and he was hopping around. He grabbed the tiniest piece of apple from depths of rocks around the pond. He brought it over and dropped it right next to me. I picked it up,

looked at it, and then gave it back to him. He took that tiny piece of apple and swallowed it. Okay, according to the training program, I had to reward him for eating. I pulled out a mealworm and gave it to him. He grabbed it, hopped 2 feet out of reach, spit out the mealworm, spit out the apple, and then re-ate the mealworm. That was the first time I was outsmarted by Mob, and it has happened almost weekly since.

It may seem like a hit to the ego, to be outwitted by a bird, but I don't mind. Stop by the ACNW Corvid Enclosure and visit with Potter and Mob.

Watch the intelligence in their eyes as they size you up. Then I think you'll understand.

Adopt-A-Raptor

Help support the care of any of our 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. Participation in our Adopt-A-Raptor program is now available online (click the "DonateNow" button on our website).

Becoming an Outdoor Family



Bringing families and the great outdoors together...

Reconnect while learning new skills!

Spend quality time with your kids at this all-inclusive retreat while learning basic outdoor skills that will help you and your family enjoy the outdoors. Expert instructors from both ACNW and the MN Department of Natural Resources will teach a variety of classes.

Cost: \$65 per person, OR \$245 for family of four and \$55 for each additional family member. Each family gets a private room. Optional \$10 fee per person for Friday night stay— no meals or activities available on Friday or breakfast Saturday.

To register or for more info:

Call: 888-404-7743

Email: audubon1@audubon-center.org

Web: www.audubon-center.org

T.U.N.E. Camp

Pheasants Forever and Trout Unlimited are hosting a four-day outdoor sportsman experience for kids in grades 6-12 at the Audubon Center of the North Woods - June 18-21. The camp provides junior high and high school kids an opportunity to experience fly-fishing, archery, shooting, canoeing, dog training, wildlife biology, wetlands ecology and more.

For more info, visit www.pfladyslippers.com

Or you can call or email us here at the Center.

Land Management Volunteer Opportunities

At the Audubon Center, we strive to be an example of responsible land stewardship and management. This spring and summer we have several opportunities for volunteers to help us with our land management activities on the Audubon's 535 acre property.

- 1) Planting tree seedlings:** This spring and summer we will be planting a new generation to our forest. In mid-May will be receiving 1,700 seedlings from the General Andrews DNR State Forest Nursery. We were able to purchase these seedlings through funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service out of Hinckley, MN. We will be receiving 200 white spruce, 100 red pine, 100 tamarack, 100 jack pine, 100 black walnut, 500 oaks (pin, red, white and bur) and two 300-count wildlife packets containing pin cherry, red osier dogwood, crabapple, wild plum and juneberry. We will be planting these spruce and pine seedlings in our red pine plantations, oaks and walnuts in our deer exclosures and forest openings, and the wildlife packets and tamaracks in our open areas on the east portion of our property. With these plantings our goal is to make a more diverse forest through age and species, as well as more wildlife friendly. We are looking for volunteers to help our staff with these plantings. If you would like to be a part of planting the Audubon Center's future forest between mid-May through mid-June please contact our volunteer coordinator Heidi Mulholland.
- 2) Removing Garlic Mustard:** Garlic mustard is an invasive exotic forb that continues to take over city parks, lawns, and nature preserves. Near Schwyzer and Lowry Lodge we unfortunately have patches of garlic mustard that are threatening to take over the forest floor, crowding out sunlight and space for the beautiful native wildflowers such as bloodroot, trillium, hepatica, wood anemone, and bellwort. A single flowering garlic mustard plant can spread tens of thousands of seeds, allowing them to take over an area very easily. Left alone, the garlic mustard present on the Audubon property could spread into our entire forest. We need help from volunteers who would be interested in keeping our woods healthy by pulling out and spraying garlic mustard. The garlic mustard is already out and will be blooming May through July. If you are interested in helping remove garlic mustard please contact volunteer coordinator Heidi Mulholland.
- 3) Removing Japanese Honeysuckle:** Another invasive exotic species spreading on the Audubon property is Japanese Honeysuckle. Used as an ornamental, this shrub has found its way into most lawns, city and state parks through its ability to spread. At the Audubon property Japanese Honeysuckle is present in several areas of our forest. The Minnesota Conservation Corps gave us a good start to removal of the Honeysuckle this spring, but much still remains on our property. The method for eradication for Japanese Honeysuckle is clipping or sawing of the stems, and painting them with an herbicide to keep them from suckering and sprouting. The removal of Japanese Honeysuckle can be done all the way through the fall until temperatures get below freezing. If you are interested in helping remove Japanese Honeysuckle from the Audubon property please contact volunteer coordinator Heidi Mulholland.

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

ACNW Wish List

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

- reliable, fuel-efficient used car for interns (previous one had an encounter with a deer)
- twin mattresses in excellent condition
- handheld GPS units
- electric stove
- refrigerator
- microwave
- industrial-size washer & dryer
- binoculars
- HDD camcorder
- LCD computer monitors (thin, flat energy-efficient kind)
- late model television
- tree corer
- old 3.5" floppy discs for recycled art
- cross country skis for very small kids
- backpacking expedition packs
- sleeping bags in excellent condition
- 3/4 ton diesel engine pick-up truck for plowing snow
- utility trailer
- scaffolding
- pressure sprayer
- small portable generator
- roto tiller
- large glazed planting pots
- pontoon boat
- 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.

- Pressure washer
- Autoclave
- 3/4" Manila Rope
- 1/2" Manila Rope
- 1/4" Manila Rope
- Raptor Food For a Month \$150
- Bird/Wildlife Art Work
- Live minnows (left-over from fishing is fine)
- Parrot/dog toys (new or gently used)
- Potted evergreen trees (less than 3' tall)

Alumni News

Congratulations to Jacqueline Isoton from Brazil (intern '00-'01) and her husband Eduardo are the proud parents of new baby Sofia - congratulations Jacque and Eduardo!

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.

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 one of our long-time volunteers, Lee Dybvig. He generously donates his time and energy making the various signs you see around the center.



Lee Dybvig volunteer

Many of the signs around the center, directing you to and around our facilities, were made by Lee Dybvig of Sandstone. Lee and his wife Dorothy had their first contact with ACNW some 40 years ago, through an evening program at the Center at which an intern, Douglas Wood, sang and played his guitar including the "Minnesota Mosquito" which he had written.

Lee and Dorothy were new to the community as were Mike and Jane Link and the couples shared interests in sailing and canoe camping so became friends. Lee says they learned lots at the center through the years. Their son Nils took a one week Junior Naturalist course here and came home talking about Saw-whet Owls and and showed his parents how small a Spring Peeper frog is. Also their Foreign exchange student from Spain spent a week at the Audubon Center and was exposed to seeing Northern Lights for the first time and sleeping under the stars in 30 below temps.

About 15 years ago, Mike Link asked Lee to make a directional sign for the turn from Hwy 61. Then he challenged him to make a trail sign with a map of the whole place. Mike put a bug in Brian Wood's ear about Lee so now we've been keeping Lee busy making much-needed identification signs for the entire center.

Lee says that he is thankful that his kids grew up here with the Audubon Center close at hand. He really appreciates what the Center has done for his family and community these many years. Lee says that if he can give back just a little bit in signs for what ACNW has given to his family and the Sandstone community then that is an excellent trade.

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.



Women's Wellness & Adventure Weekend

- Comfortable lodging at our beautiful lakeside 535-acre location
- Awesome healthy meals, terrific guest speakers, fun evenings
- Indulge in some personal pampering (massage is included) and enjoy a variety of physical, mental and spiritual activities & classes

Fall 2010
October 1-3

Spring 2011
May 13-15

**Renew,
Relax,
Rediscover...**

at this all-inclusive, complete holistic retreat offered every spring and fall—comfy lodging, wonderful food, interesting speakers, and a variety of classes and activities are offered in the areas of Adventure/Challenge, Wellness & Nature, and Creative Expressions.

Spend this weekend with your friends or take the opportunity to get away by yourself, meet new people, and learn new skills. Choose from a variety of physical, mental, and spiritual activities.

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, canoeing)
- * Wellness & Nature (examples include yoga, massage, reiki, meditation, shamanic healing, guided hikes, bird banding)
- * Creative Expressions (examples include art classes, crafts classes, gardening courses, journaling, music, quillwork)

Lodging, meals, all programming and 10 minutes of massage or reiki are included in the weekend fee (additional massage or reiki are available for an additional fee). All-inclusive weekend package rates \$240-\$270.

On the web...

Climate Counts has introduced their Industry Innovators (i2) program with six forward-thinking charter companies: Amtrak, Ben & Jerry's, Clif Bar, REI, Shaklee, and Timberland.

i2 is a new program for tracking climate leadership among businesses not currently ranked in their annual scores. Companies interested in getting a Climate Counts company benchmark can use the i2 site to go through a process of self-evaluation and follow it by requesting a deep evaluation to determine a final score that can be used publicly.

Do you know a business that should have a Climate Counts score and is working hard to show how climate action and business innovation go hand in hand? Tell Climate Counts about them. Or better yet, tell them about the i2 program!

Learn more at <http://i2.climatecounts.org>

TerraCycle's hope is to eliminate the idea of waste by finding innovative, unique uses for materials others deem garbage.

They run a free national collection programs that pay non-profits and schools to collect used packaging such as drink pouches, energy bar wrappers, yogurt cups, cookie wrappers, chip bags and more! The collected materials are upcycled into affordable, high quality products ranging from tote bags and purses to shower curtains and kites. In addition, TerraCycle works with these partners to find innovative uses for all of their waste streams and, by making products from these various waste streams, TerraCycle prevents 1000's of tons of waste from going to landfills.

Founded in 2001 by a 19 year old Princeton University freshman named Tom Szaky, TerraCycle started as an organic fertilizer company and has grown into a multi-category, eco-friendly powerhouse. Tom's dream was to find way a new, more responsible way of doing doing business that would be good for the planet, good for people and good for the bottom line! TerraCycle has won many awards and accolades for its environmentally responsible business model from Inc. Magazine, Red Herring, The Home Depot, The Environmental Business Journal, The Social Venture Network, Zerofootprint and many other highly regarded organizations.

Learn more at <http://www.terracycle.net>

Meet Our New Educational Interns



Daniel Schmalzer

I just finished my Junior year studying Environmental Science at Carroll University, in Waukesha WI. I am originally from Chicago IL, where my family got me into the great outdoors. Many of my summers were spent fishing on Lake St. Clair in MI, and swimming in Lake Erie at my family's cottage near Windsor Canada. My parents entered me into Boy Scouts when I was a kid and I stuck with it until I earned my Eagle Scout award. Carroll University has allowed me to take 2 classes at the Audubon Center, canoeing on the Namekagon & the Wolf and Lynx Course, to travel to Alaska for 3 weeks studying the state, and hopefully travel to Thailand next January.



Ian Alrich

I have lived in Minnesota all my life and will soon be finishing up my studies at the University of MN, Duluth. I hope to eventually find a position at a nature center, which is why my internship here at the center will be a great experience, giving me both a firm footing in many of the aspects of nature center workings and a chance to practice what I have learned at UMD. My hobbies include making walking sticks, creating origami figures, finding and eating wild edible plants, reading, and learning anything I can about everything I can. I also volunteer my some of my time with a local animal rehabilitator, usually cleaning animal kennels and dishes, but also helping feed the occasional injured hummingbird.

There and Back Again: The Flight of the Hummingbirds

by Omi Aguinaldo

Have you ever been deceived thinking that what is flying and hovering above your brightly colored flower patch is a sphinx, clearwing or a hawk moth instead of a hummingbird? I used to be before I learned tricks to spotting hummingbirds. One tip is to look at their tails and heads – the moths possess a yellow patch near their tail and they have antennae which birds don't. The primary food of these moths is the rich sugary nectar found in plants and they use their long proboscis to suck it into their bodies. Hummingbirds (hummers) use their long beak and tongue to lick or drink the nectar out, which only serves as fuel for their flycatching activities; it is an easy sugar after all.



Above: Hummingbird in flight

Below: Hummingbird Clearwing Moth



One of the most well-known of hummers in Minnesota is the Ruby Throated Hummingbird, *Archilochus colubris*. Belonging to the Family *Trochilidae*, these are the only known species of hummingbirds that nest east of the Mississippi River. Their body length ranges from 7-9 cm with a slightly longer wingspan of 8-11 cm and they weigh around 3 grams. Adult coloration of these birds is a metallic green back and grayish white under belly. Their wings are pointy and black. Ruby-throated hummers, like many songbirds, can be easily gendered by just looking at their coloration. The male of this species possesses a red iridescence on their throat, a smaller body size and shorter beak whereas the female only has a whitish throat patch and is bigger than the males.

I mentioned earlier that ruby-throated hummers only use the nectar to be able to catch their prey because, believe or not, these small birds are insect eaters. And this factor affects them well in subfreezing weather. Since insects go into torpor, dig too far underground or migrate during winter months, hummingbirds have no option but to follow them. With their food and fuel gone, they migrate south to Central America during the northern winter. But it is not the availability of food or the cooling climate that triggers hummers to migrate – it is the shortening length of sunlight in the autumnal months from as early as mid-July to September.

Following their direction south, they take a “shortcut” by crossing the Gulf of Mexico rather than trekking across Texas. But not all of them make it to the coast of Mexico. Some will be lost in the sea due to the hurricane season

in the area while some either won't make the trip across and just stay in North Carolina or will make it across then collapse and die as they reach Mexico or Northern Panama. Those that are healthy and fit make it across the gulf where they recharge in their southern homes.

Fattening themselves up until around January to February to twice their weight, they will begin their last gorge on insects and spiders on the coast of Yucatan before they head northward again. Some will skirt the Gulf of Mexico following Texas to the north while most hummers cross the Gulf, typically leaving at dusk for a non-stop flight of up to 500 miles that takes 18-22 hours depending on the weather. They may pause to catch their breaths on the boats or ships or oil rigs on the Gulf. A common notion many people have is that hummers will “hitchhike” with other birds that migrate, but they don't. Once they have reached Florida, they may weigh as little as 2.5 grams.

Males depart approximately 10 days earlier than females but hummer migration is spread out over a three-month period. This ensures that if a catastrophe occurs on their migratory path, their species won't be wiped out. So the return of hummingbirds to North America is not as distinct as of that of birds migrating in flocks. The hummers feeding on your feeders might be very early or very late during their two-month migration span.

Once in North America, the speed of these birds gradually decreases to about 20 miles a day, ensuring the presence of blossoming flowers along their way. The migration cycle of hummers is complete by the last week of May.

BBQ & Concert at the Lake

Saturday, June 12, 2010

5:30 - 9:00 p.m.

BBQ at 5:30 p.m followed by a special recognition of our volunteers; music from 7-9 p.m.

\$12.50 adults/ \$6 children 6-12 years
5 yrs and under are free; FAMILY RATE: \$32/family of 4

*Regular Dinners at the Lake
will return in September*

**Featuring music by the
Kettle River Ramblers**

Traditional, Classic, and Original:
Folk, Rock, Blues and Country Music

Reservations are required

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

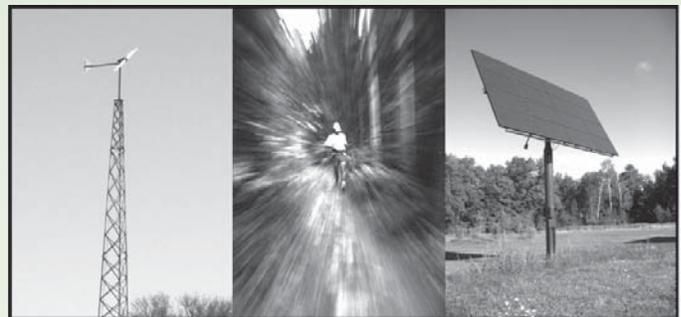
Annual Fall Open House & Art/Craft Fair

**Saturday, October 9
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

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

Tour our grounds and facilities, find out about our renewable energy systems, learn how the Audubon Center got its start, visit our educational raptors, and more. 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, hay rides and other fun learning activities such as making recycled art. Lunch will be available for purchase. A number of skilled artisans and craftspeople will be on hand throughout the day to demonstrate their skills as well as sell their products.

Renewable Trail Run/Walk



Part of our Open House day on October 9

Register now for our 3rd Annual Renewable Trail Run/Walk! You may opt for the 5K run/walk over our trails or the 10K which is partially on our trails and then around Grindstone Lake. Visit our website for more info and online registration. Race starts at 9 a.m. Registered runners/walkers receive a long-sleeve T-shirt (first 100 registered participants), goodie bag and post-race refreshments.

We need volunteers to help with the trail run/walk, so please give us a call at 888-404-7743 if you'd like to give us a hand for this special day.

Summer Exploritas

(formerly Elderhostels)
at the Audubon Center of the North Woods

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

6/13/2010 - 6/18/2010

Minnesota has a wonderful diversity of life that can be explored by boat, on foot and with a little scientific investigation. 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.

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

8/29/2010 - 9/3/2010



Hawks On The Wing: Migration Mysteries

Witness an event that stretches back to the mists of time. Visit Hawk Ridge, nationally known for thousands of migrating raptors each fall. Meet our birds of prey and discover their special adaptations. Are they chicken killers or symbols of wisdom?

Wolves In The Wild: Symbols Of Wilderness

The howl of the wolf sends shivers up the spine. Meet a captive pack of wolves. Observe their special behavior, including communication styles. Deepen your knowledge and understanding of this legendary and beautiful predator.

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.

their migrations so they arrive at their destinations when insects, larvae, buds and other food sources are available. The continuous speeding up of spring means that many bird species are arriving late for those hatches and openings, consequently having a harder time finding food. Birds are just one example of how fast changes in our seasons have impacts that stretch through the web of life. These recent years of more and more weather records and changes to our landscape remind us of the importance of environmental education, and the place the Audubon Center has to help people gain a connection and understanding to the environment and what is happening around them.

This spring also marked another change for the center. Since January 2009, Katie Kleese and I have been the Co-Directors of the Audubon Center of the North Woods. Through that time, Katie and I have worked together to lead the center into the future. This spring, Katie made the decision to resign from her position as Co-Director. I had the great opportunity to work with Katie for nearly two years, and it was a true pleasure. Katie has done much to increase the quality of our K-12, family camp and charter school operations and I want to thank Katie for all the work, time and devotion she has given to the center. Her efforts in all areas of her position have made lasting improvements, and we are all very appreciative of what she has done for ACNW. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

Throughout this spring, I have been working with the Board of Directors on hiring a new Co-Director. This was a very involved process of determining what is needed to carry us into the future. We received many great resumes and conducted several interviews and call backs. We had many outstanding candidates, were impressed at their experience and abilities, and wish to thank all those that applied for the position. I am very pleased to announce that we were able to find a wonderful candidate, Melonie Shipman, who will bring many skills and talents to the position of Co-Director. She will begin the position in June. Melonie's extensive and diverse experience, coupled with her love for the environment, will be tremendous assets to the Center and I am very excited and eager to work with her. On behalf of the entire Audubon Center staff, I would like to welcome Melonie as our new Co-Director of the Audubon Center of the North Woods, and invite everyone to attend our Concert at the Lake & Volunteer Recognition on Saturday, June 12 – a chance to celebrate our volunteers and also meet Melonie. Welcome to the Audubon Center of the North Woods Melonie – we are excited to have you on our team!

ACNW Summer Camps – North Woods Wilderness Adventures

Prices are all-inclusive and cover lodging, all meals and snacks, programs and instruction.

July 8-11

'Hooked' Family Fishing Weekend

parent w/child (no age limit); \$190/adult, \$170/child (\$125/child if 2 or more children)

Whether you're an experienced fisherman or just interested in learning, you're welcome to join us for a parent/child weekend fishing experience. We'll be taking field trips to fish on Lake Mille Lacs and to fly fish on the Kettle River. During non-fishing hours, participants will have the opportunity for some lure making and fly tying. You are welcome to bring your own fishing equipment but we will provide equipment to those who need it.

July 11-16

Forts, Fires & Fishing

10-14 yrs; \$249

Come spend a week learning how to survive in the woods. We'll start the off the week learning the basics of fire-building, how to construct shelters for people and animals, and where to find food in the wild. Throughout the week, we'll perfect our fort and fire-making skills, cook some of our own meals over a fire, look for wild edibles, catch some fish, and spend a night under the stars. We'll finish our week with a fish fry for you and your family!

July 18-23

Voyageurs Nat'l Park Expedition

15-17 yrs w/ canoe experience; \$420

Explore the lakes, islands, and shorelines of Minnesota's only national park. This trip is designed for people with some canoeing experience and will focus on building on existing skills and enjoying the beautiful scenery. The first day we will go over the trip schedule and review canoeing, portaging and camping skills. After that, we will set out to explore the rarely touched areas of the nation's most water-based national park. Camp participants will learn and expand their knowledge of traveling by canoe, back country camping and cooking, and the natural history of the area. Paddle, swim, relax, and experience a great north woods adventure!



August 1-6

Rocks, Ropes & Roughing It

13-15 yrs, \$249

Spend a week in the north woods exploring your adventurous side! Join us while we canoe, rock climb, and complete our high ropes course. We'll sleep out under the stars one night, navigate through unknown territory, and test your skills at surviving in the woods. Throughout the camp, we'll incorporate stories about real-life explorers while we experience adventures of our own!

August 1-6

The Way of Wildlife

10-13 yrs; \$299

Spend the week exploring the lives of animals at the Audubon Center and around Minnesota. Help up care for and learn handling of educational animals at the Audubon Center including frogs, snakes, turtles, and birds of prey! Explore behind the scenes at a zoo, aquarium and a wildlife research center. Experience the basics of wildlife rehab, and visit a veterinary clinic/wildlife rehabilitation center. Learn the basics of animal training with hands on experience training an animal for the week. Come join us for the exciting week full of new animal experiences!

August 8-12

Namekagon River Expedition

Beginning canoeists 12-15 yrs; \$350

The Namekagon River is a northern tributary of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. This scenic river is the perfect place to experience Minnesota's wilderness while learning the basics of river canoeing. We'll start by learning the basics of canoeing and camping at the Audubon Center. After that, we'll cast off to test our paddling skills, enjoy the gentle current, and explore the waters and shorelines of the beautiful, dynamic Namekagon, which varies from a small cold water trout stream to larger marsh areas surrounded predominantly by coniferous forest. Participants will also learn practice 'leave no trace' principles and minimum impact camping. A great introductory trip for those wanting to learn more about canoe travel and camping.

Scholarships still available!

Past camper & multiple child discounts

Lowry and Schwyzer Renovations: Come See the Difference!

Schwyzzer Lodge: Many of you know that for the first fifteen years of the Audubon Center of the Northwoods' existence National Historic Registered Schwyzer Lodge was the only dormitory. In 1986 Lowry Lodge was built, and in 1997 Crosby Dormitory opened its doors. Through that time though, Schwyzer Lodge continues to house school groups, adult groups, families, conferences and retreats. To better accommodate our guests we have recently finished a



total renovation of the upstairs bathrooms of Schwyzer Lodge. The bathrooms offer more comfort and space, as well as up-to-date technologies. We are excited for groups to experience the newly completed bathrooms in Schwyzer. We hope it makes your stay at Schwyzer even more memorable.

Lowry Lodge: Built in 1986, Lowry Lodge continues to house k-12, college, adults, families and groups and conferences. We are excited to announce that through paint donated through Valspar®, Lowry Lodge will be getting a facelift this summer with new paint and color on all walls and ceilings. We are excited for the difference these warm colors will give to the feel and atmosphere of Lowry.

This summer we will also be adding kitchen accommodations to the classroom. To accompany the sink already in the classroom, we will also be adding an energy star rated electric range, refrigerator and microwave. New cabinets to hold pots, pans and kitchenware will also be installed onto the wall above the counter space. Through these additions, Lowry will now have a fully functioning kitchen, making a stay at Lowry easier, more convenient and enjoyable for any group.

For current pricing, to get a quote for your event or to check availability, please email Laurie at: fenner@audubon-center.org

Did you know...

GE and Lake Erie Energy Development Corporation (LEEDCo) of Northern Ohio just announced a long-term partnership beginning with the development of the first fresh water offshore wind farm in the US. Under the new partnership, GE will provide direct-drive wind turbines to LEEDCo's 20 megawatt offshore wind project in Lake Erie. This is a significant step towards accelerating the deployment of offshore wind in the Great Lakes. The announcement was made at the American Wind Energy Association's annual WINDPOWER Conference in Dallas.

Source: www.marketwatch.com

— continued from page 1 —

spinning, Eco RV standing ready, and more. It has a huge variety of programs, events and even college classes. It even won the state award for environmental education! There are historic facilities, a renewing setting – bottom line: I could see myself 'playing' here in endless ways... And there are even foreign student interns to feed the ever-growing hunger for international experiences."



Melonie Shipman, Co-Director with Leo

Since February I have enjoyed "playing" at the Audubon Center as a volunteer. Every time I am at the center, I am aware of the integrity of stewardship messages, the diversity of offerings and habitat, and the potential to nurture others to do more. As Co- Director, I will be bring my own diverse background into the mix, having served as a high school teacher, marketing project leader, environmental educator and visitor center manager.

Whatever the role or peak experience, it is often enhanced by sharing with others. Stop by the Concert at the Lake and Volunteer Appreciation on June 12th and let's start to get to know each other. Together we will see the Audubon Center achieve its full potential in instilling a connection and commitment to the environment through experiential learning.

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.

Thank You!

Donations, Memberships & Memorials

Moose

- Tammy Fleming
- Tony Murphy
- Bud Turner & Roberta Mistretta

Loons

- Julie Holly
- Tom & Phyllis Mahan

Otters

- Anonymous
- George & Margaret Brandel
- Barbara Derby Carlson
- Paul Egeland
- Anna Goyette
- Mirium & James Henrikson
- John & Linda Hickman
- Tad Johnson
- Phyllis & Don Kahn
- Janet & Dean Lund
- Sam & Diana Rankin
- Wesley Sundquist

Cranes

- 215 Wabasha Properties, Inc
- Abdulaziz Al-A-faj & Kathy Brandli
- Lillian Antonelli
- Jerry & Donna Bahls
- Mike & Mary Clark
- Daen Clawson
- Ron & Carolyn Drude
- Barbara Franklin
- Bernard Friel
- Margaret Kelsch
- John Leeper
- Robert & Marveen Minish
- John Zakelj

Owls

- Brett & Diane Arnold
- Susie Bates
- Vinni Chomeau
- Jessica Driscoll
- Bill & Jan Foss
- Karol Gresser
- John Helland
- William Jacobs
- Jean Johnson
- Laverne Mans
- Beatrice Morrow
- Courtney Nagle & Scott Burnett
- Katie Navin
- Mark & Erica Peterson
- Tim & Angie Presley
- Hilda Snelling
- Charles Sprado
- Elaine Thrune

In memory of

- Patti & Barry Larson
in memory of Joe White

In honor/celebration of

- Nancy Arnosti
in honor of the Arnosti Family
- Chaiya Isenberg & Donna Hamilton
in honor of Tom Stelter the chef
- Marilyn Thompson
in honor of Dorothy Janes's 97th birthday
- Terrance Ische & Kathryn Knoblauch
in honor of Marty Carlson
- Suzanne Thompson
in celebration of the marriage of Marilyn Thompson & Don Janes

Frank Buckingham Scholarship Fund

- JoAnn & George Perdizet (correction from last newsletter)

Organizations

- Bird x Bird
- GiveMN

Grants

- Betsy Johnson Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation
- Donald L Janes
- Johnson Education Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation

Employee Matching

- 3M Foundation
- General Mills Foundation
- IBM Matching Grants

Work Place Giving

- United Way
- Wells Fargo Community Support

Adopt-A-Raptor / Wildlife

- Brett & Diane Arnold
- Fond du Lac Reservation
- Vonda Demolee in memory of Sally Ann Lauber
- Sheperd of the Grove
- Patricia Hunter
- Melonie Shipman/ Gift adoption for Omi Aguinaldo
- Melonie Shipman/ Gift adoption for Sierra Rose Nalen

Grandparents Butterfly Garden

- Lydia Steensen

In-Kind

- James Bauer
- Harold & Teresa Berg
- Mike Link & Kate Crowley
- Nancy Jackson
- Emily Lorenzen
- Camelle Parker
- Margaret Schwartz
- Marina Vork

See the next page for member benefits >>>

2009-2010 Visiting Schools

- Academy for Science and Agriculture
- Aurora Charter School
- Battle Creek Elementary
- Brainerd Area Education Center
- Bright Water Montessori Academy
- Brimhall Elementary
- Castle Elementary
- Central Park Elementary
- Century Jr. High School
- Cherokee Heights Elementary
- Cretin-Durham Hall High School
- Crossroads Elementary
- Cygnus Academy
- Edgerton Elementary
- Emerson Spanish Immersion Center
- Falcon Heights Elementary
- Glacial Hills Charter
- Glacier Hills Elementary
- Great Expectations Charter School
- Green Isle Community School
- Hiawatha Elementary
- Highwood Hills Elementary
- Houlton Elementary
- Hudson Middle School Young Naturalists
- Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School
- Jennings Charter School
- Kaleidoscope Charter School
- La Crescent Montessori
- Laura Jeffrey Academy
- L.C. Webster Elementary
- Learning for Leadership
- Lighthouse Academy of Nations
- Lighthouse Program
- Loring Elementary
- Magnuson Christian School
- Montgomery-Lonsdale Middle School
- Mounds Park Academy
- New Discoveries Montessori Academy
- New Visions Academy
- Normandale Hills Elementary
- North Hudson Elementary
- North Lakes Academy
- Odyssey Academy
- Paideia Academy
- Pine City High School
- Poplar Bridge Elementary
- Prairie Seeds Academy
- River Heights Charter School
- Riverway Learning Community
- St. Anne's Catholic School
- St. John's Area School
- St. John's Lutheran School
- St. John's - St. Andrew's Catholic School
- St. John the Baptist Catholic School - Excelsior
- St. John the Baptist Catholic School - Vermillion
- St. Mary's Catholic School
- St. Paul Preparatory
- St. Thomas Academy Middle School
- Skyview Community School
- Swan River Montessori School
- The Best Academy
- Voyageurs Expeditionary High School
- White Bear ALC
- White Bear Montessori
- Zanewood Community School



Northwoods Audubon Center

A proud leader in environmental education and renewable energy

P.O. Box 530, Sandstone, MN 55072
Phone: 888-404-7743 or 320-245-2648
Fax: 320-245-5272
Email: audubon1@audubon-center.org

If you would like to save resources and would prefer to receive this periodic newsletter electronically (PDF) via email instead of US mail, please send an email to audubon1@audubon-center.org

Visit our website!

www.audubon-center.org

News from the North Woods

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Laurie Fenner, editing/layout

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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.

By becoming a member of the Audubon Center of the North Woods, you provide the essential support we need to continue to provide quality environmental educations to thousands of people every year.

Membership Benefits ➤➤

Friendship Categories

OWLS	\$25-49	MOOSE	\$500-\$749
CRANES	\$50-99	EAGLES	\$750-\$999
OTTERS	\$100-249	OSPREY	\$1000+
LOONS	\$250-\$499	PLANNED GIVING	\$2,500+

All Members receive:

- 10% discount off merchandise in our store
 - 10% off youth and family camps
 - 10% off Schwyzer Lodge
 - A gift membership to give to a friend
 - Our periodic printed newsletter
 - Our e-newsletter (optional)
 - Invitations to special events
-
- Members at the Loon level and above also receive a gift certificate for 2 Dinners-at-the-Lake

ACNW MISSION

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

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