



Tamarac Highlights

Add this Expert to your Life List

Sibley Highlights Festival



David Allen Sibley

The Tamarac Interpretive Association, along with Tamarac Refuge, are co-sponsors of the 10th annual Festival of Birds, May 17-20, featuring David Allen Sibley. This year Sibley will also be birding on Tamarac where his Saturday fieldtrip will make stops on both Tamarac

and Hamden Slough Refuges! Sibley also gives the keynote address Saturday evening starting with the "Sibley Social." A second Saturday fieldtrip, with a different leader, will also take participants exclusively through Tamarac Refuge to look for nearly 25 species of wood warblers, Scarlet Tanagers, Marsh Wrens, and plenty more. Registration deadline is May 11, but Sibley events are sure to fill up early. Download a complete festival program or register on-line at www.visitdetroitlakes.com. Click on [Detroit Lakes Festival of Birds](#).

Sibley Book Signing

Saturday, May 19, starting at 3:45 pm
at Minnesota State Community & Technical College, Detroit Lakes

Here's your chance to have the well-known illustrator and author sign your Sibley Book! There will be copies of familiar Sibley books available for purchase, such as *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds*, *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life & Behavior*, *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America*, and *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America*. Start out a friend in birding by giving him or her the gift of a signed copy of Sibley's *Birding Basics*. Tamarac Interpretive Association is selling all books sold at the birding festival so your 10% member discount applies. Be sure to visit our booth for additional shopping. You can also bring your own copy of Sibley's book for signing.



Scarlet Tanager, 2004 Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge Photography Contest, second place winner for wildlife. Photograph by Kelly Krabbenhoft, Fargo, ND.



Tamarac Interpretive Association News

President's Corner



By Rosie Greenland

When I turn the calendar over, I'm always surprised at how the meetings, appointments, birthdays and activities are marked for the days ahead.

Following are the upcoming TIA dates to mark on your calendar. Our regular board meetings are the **2nd Thursday of the month at 1:00 pm.**

Monday, **April 23**, is Tamarac Clean-up Day from 9:00 am-noon. Come prepared to work inside or outside. Lunch is served at noon. Please RSVP.

Looking ahead to May, be sure to note the **Birding Festival, May 17-20**. TIA will have a booth at Minnesota State Community & Technical College on Saturday, May 19, and we will host a book signing by David Sibley in the afternoon. He is a well-known bird enthusiast and author. This is one of the largest sale events for the Tamarac store.

June 12 is the TIA annual meeting and potluck at the Detroit Lakes Public Library from 5:30-7:00 pm. All members are welcome.

The Fall Open House will be **September 29** at the Tamarac Refuge.

TIA board members are selling raffle tickets for \$5.00 each for the wolf print shown on page 4 of this newsletter. The proceeds go to wildlife conservation. The drawing will be **October 6** at 4:00 pm at the Tamarac Visitor Center.

Check out our book store at the Tamarac Visitor Center for many new and unique items.

Mark your calendar with all these dates. When you turn your calendar over, you will see there is always something going on at Tamarac.

Have a great summer!
Rosie

Become a Friend JOIN TIA

Individual, Family, Seniors: \$15.00
Student: \$10.00
Patron: \$100.00
Life Member: \$250.00

Note Change in Membership Categories

Members receive a mailed copy of our quarterly newsletter, invitation to member-only tours and events, and a ten percent discount at our gift shop. Your membership fee is only a part of the funds we use each year in the support of the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge. Additional contributions welcome.

Photography Credits

David Allen Sibley publicity photo by Carolynne Bailey. Small frog photo on page 7 by Dick Henry. Special thanks to the Frazee-Vergas Forum for the use of their photo of Ted Schaum. The small photo in the banner on page one is wild plum taken May 1, 2007, on the Blackbird Auto Tour. All other photographs, not otherwise credited, by Denis Mudderman.

Sign up for the free:

Tamarac ENews

and receive e-mails with periodic TIA and Tamarac NWR News and Updates.

E-mail your e-mail address to:

tamaracnews@tamaracfriends.org

Or fill out a request card at the Tamarac NWR Visitor Center

Tamarac ENews is not a listserver or a discussion group that will bombard your e-mail inbox. Our newsletter is published four times a year. Tamarac ENews will supplement it and arrive every month or when needed. Action alerts may also be sent. E-mails will not contain pictures or graphics that will clog your inbox. Tamarac ENews is available to TIA members and non-members, and is a publication of the Tamarac Interpretive Association. You can unsubscribe by e-mailing a request to tamaracnews@tamaracfriends.org.

TIA continues to collect Central Market, Detroit Lakes, We Care Stickers.

Tamarac Interpretive Association, Inc.

35704 County Hwy. 26, Rochert, MN 56578
(218) 847-2641 extension 21

Website: www.tamaracfriends.org, E-mail: tia@tamaracfriends.org

The Tamarac Interpretive Association is a 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to facilitate activities and programs that interpret, protect and restore the natural and cultural resources of the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge.

Annual memberships are: Student - \$10, Individual/Family - \$15, Patron - \$100, and Life Member - \$250. Membership dues are paid annually October 1st. Members receive four newsletters a year, invitation to special tours, and a 10% discount in the Tamarac gift shop.

Rosie Greenland, President	Detroit Lakes, MN	Term Expires 2008
Ruth Olson, Vice President	Detroit Lakes, MN	Term Expires 2008
Theresa Haney, Secretary	Rochert, MN	Term Expires 2009
Wayne Olson, Treasurer	Detroit Lakes, MN	Term Expires 2007
George Weatherston	Fargo, ND	Term Expires 2007
Donna Stewart	Rochert, MN	Term Expires 2007
Denis Mudderman	Rochert, MN	Term Expires 2008
Ron Jensen	Detroit Lakes, MN	Term Expires 2009

Refuge Advisors to the Board

Barbara Boyle, Tamarac Refuge Manager 218-847-2641

Barbara_Boyle@fws.gov

Kelly Blackledge, Tamarac Visitor Services 218-847-2641

Kelly_Blackledge@fws.gov

Denis Mudderman, Newsletter Coordinator, Webmaster: tamaracweb@yahoo.com

Becky Hastad, Newsletter Editor: rhastad@tvutel.com

The deadline for articles for the Summer 2007 *Tamarac Highlights* is June 4. Please discuss article ideas in advance with the newsletter coordinator (tamaracweb@yahoo.com).



Tamarac Interpretive Association News

Annual Meeting June 12, 5:30 pm

The Tamarac Interpretive Association Annual Meeting will be held at the Detroit Lakes Public Library, June 12, at 5:30 p.m. A potluck dinner will follow a 30 minute business meeting.

Member Only Tours and Events

“Invitation to special programs” has always been one of the benefits of TIA membership. Special refuge tours are in the works for later this summer and information will be included in our summer newsletter. As part of our recently received Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant, we will be giving computer workshops this summer, open only to members. A general introductory workshop is June 2, and the first hands-on workshop will be scheduled at a computer lab in Detroit Lakes during late June.

Introduction to Computers and Information Technology Workshop

June 2, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon
at the Tamarac NWR Visitor Center

Open to TIA Members Only
There is no charge, but
registration is required in advance.
(See article on Page 7)

(Bring a lunch, and at 1pm
participate in the Feather Friendly Hike.
See page 7 for details.)

By-law Change Agenda Item

Members will be asked to vote on the deletion of 6.1.5 section b) “The Board of Directors may assign other specific responsibilities, including, but not limited to, assisting the Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer in any of their duties as described in Article VI, Sections 1.2, 1.3, and 1.4.” The section is being removed because it does not conform to the cooperative agreement with the Refuge.

TIA Office Update

In January, we began a 15-month Fish and Wildlife Foundation funded project to enhance TIA’s capabilities through computer technology tools and training. One of the first objectives has been to set-up a functioning office for TIA before our active program season begins. Our office is being established in what has been the lower level storage area in the Visitor Center. Using grant funds, TIA matching funds, and other programs available to 501(c)3 non-profit organizations, we have purchased a Dell 745 desktop computer, a Dell Inspiron 1501 laptop, an HP 3055 all-in-one laser printer, software, a computer desk, and other computer and office peripherals. Computer and phone cabling was extended to our new office. (Our phone is the refuge phone number, (218) 847-2641, extension 21). In about a month, when everything is finished and working, TIA will be able to do all the normal office and computer related tasks of an organization from the facilities in our own office at the refuge - a very big step forward. The next step is training.

Board News and Actions

“*Board News and Actions*” is a new, recurring section of our newsletter intended to inform our members of TIA board activities, actions and news of interest. If you have a question or concern please communicate with any of your TIA board members. You may also send e-mails. Use our new e-mail address:

tia@tamaracfriends.org

Since the winter newsletter, the board has met, January 4, February 15, and March 15. A quorum was not present at the February 15 meeting.

The board sent a letter to the Becker County Planning Commission about TIA’s opposition to a proposed development on Ice Cracking and Tea Cracker lakes at the refuge boundary.

In December, Penny Nielson resigned from the Board.

An operating budget was approved for the current fiscal year.

Membership categories were streamlined with one \$15 rate for families, individuals, and seniors in an effort to help balance the cost of providing membership benefits and revenue from membership fees.

A fall open house was set for September 29, from 10am to 4pm, and a December open house was scheduled for December 2, from 12 to 4 pm.

Conducting a raffle this year was approved and TIA purchased a signed wolf print as first prize.

A flat screen computer monitor was purchased for the visitor center.

Letters were sent to Senators Klobuchar and Coleman and Representative Peterson on February 10 regarding the federal funding cuts that affect the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge.

New display fixtures have been purchased for the gift shop.

Board members manned a booth at the 2007 Detroit Lakes Home Show in March.



Visit our booth at the Detroit Lakes Festival of Birds, May 17-20. Pictured is our booth last year with Wayne Olson and Penny Nielson behind the table. Buy your Sibley guides at the festival or the refuge. Getting them signed May 19, would make great gifts.



Tamarac Interpretive Association News

Get the Computer Training You've Always Wanted—Free

As part of a Fish and Wildlife Foundation capacity building grant, TIA will conduct a series of computer technology training workshops this year. TIA is growing and we are able to do more and more in our support of the refuge. We invite our members to become involved in many new and exciting areas and some of these areas involve use of computers. Our three-workshop training program is designed to start people out who have never used a computer and know nothing about them, yet advance the skills and knowledge of those who regularly use a home computer or laptop.

An initial *Introduction to Computers and Information Technology Workshop* will leave participants with a general understanding about computers, the internet, trends, and, especially, an understanding of computer jargon. The first workshop is scheduled for **June 2, at 10:00 a.m.** in the Tamarac NWR Visitor Center auditorium. During this two hour

workshop, there will be demonstrations, hand-outs, and plenty of time to answer questions. The workshop will be structured assuming that participants have no previous computer background, but it will be valuable for those with their own computer who are still trying to "figure it all out." This introductory workshop will be repeated once or twice later in the year, as needed.

The *Basic Hands-On Introduction to Computers Workshop* will be scheduled for a computer lab in Detroit Lakes. The workshop will be designed assuming no previous working experience with computers – starting with using a mouse and manipulating windows. Participants will learn how to use an internet browser, receive an introduction to the World Wide Web, and use Yahoo and Google to find material. Examples will start with the TIA and refuge websites. Each participant who currently does not have an e-mail account will be shown how to set up a free e-mail account and learn how to use it. Depending upon lab rental costs, we hope to

offer this workshop twice this summer.

The *Advanced Hands-on Computers Workshop* is intended for participants with a basic working knowledge of computers, windows, internet, and e-mail. A major component of this workshop will be working with individual problems and questions. This final workshop will be scheduled in late summer.

Workshops require registration in advance, but there is no charge. Priority will be given to TIA members involved in, or planning on being involved in, working with TIA committees or activities. Available space is open to all TIA members.

Registration forms will be available at the Visitor Center if you ask a TIA board member, and forms will be on hand at upcoming TIA and volunteer events. Registration forms will also be on the TIA website at www.tamaracfriends.org. Contact us if you have questions.

Tamarac Interpretive Association 2007 Raffle

Buy a ticket!

\$5.00 Each



Black and white digital image of original color print.

Den Mother Wolf Family © Carl Brenders by arrangement with Mill Pond Press, inc. Venice Fl 34292. For more information on art prints by Carl Brenders please contact Mill Pond Press at 1-800-535-0331. The original color print can be seen at the Tamarac NWR Visitor Center.

First Prize Carl Brenders Wolf Print

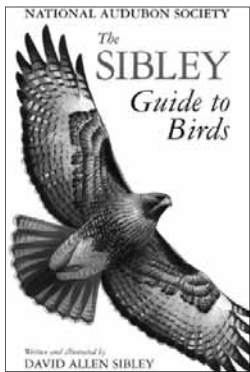
The color print measures 32" by 22.5" and it is professionally framed, measuring 43" by 34."

The edition was printed on an offset lithographic press at Litho-Krome@ Company on all-rag, acid-free pH neutral, coated paper. The master was created during the lifetime of the artist by photographing the original painting to create color separations or films. The films from which this edition was made have been destroyed.

- 1st. Prize - Carl Brenders Wolf Print \$750.00 retail value
- 2nd Prize - \$50.00 gift certificate to Tamarac Gift Shop
- 3rd Prize - The Sibley *Guide to Birds* book autographed by David Allen Sibley- \$45.00 retail value

The drawing will be at 4:00 on Oct. 6th at the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. You do not need to be present to win.

This raffle is being administered by TIA. All proceeds will be used by TIA in its mission to support the refuge and to promoting a better understanding and appreciation of the natural and cultural history, natural environment, and wildlife management of Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge



Sibley Birding Guidebooks

- The Sibley Field Guide to Birds*, \$45
- The Sibley Guide to Bird Life & Behavior*, \$45
- The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America*, \$19.95
- The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America*, \$19.95
- Sibley's Birding Basics*, \$15.95



- Owl Figurines**
- 11" snowy owl - \$18.00
 - 8" brown owl - \$10.00
 - 7" eagle - \$4.00



TIA Members receive a 10% Discount

Visit Our Booth at the DL Festival of Birds

New Kids' Books

- Loon and Moon and Other Animal Stories**
By Kevin Strauss \$12.95
- Wolf Stories: Myths and True Life Tales from Around the World.** By Susan Strauss \$7.95
- I Saw A Moose**, by Anne Stewart, \$12.95



IdentiFlyer

Audio Bird Song Dictionary

Quickly identify bird songs with the press of a button. Each card contains 10 songs. \$35.59. Additional song cards \$9.99.



Basswood hand-carved birds, various designs, \$42 each.

Tamarac NWR Poster - \$2

Refuge System Funding Action Alert Update

By Denis Mudderman

In early March, we mailed to our members an action alert that requested sending letters and e-mails to their congressman and senators to support a \$451 million appropriation to the National Wildlife Refuge System. According to Michael Woodbridge, the National Wildlife Refuge Association Director of Government Affairs, letters and e-mails are still needed. Refer back to our mailing or visit our TIA website for a sample letter and additional information, if you plan to send a letter or e-mail.

Writing your representatives in congress does make a difference. TIA previously has not been involved in advocacy, but it is an important component and responsibility of a refuge friends group. It was necessary for TIA to respond to federal government funding proposals that did not meet increased costs. In our Region 3, 71 positions were cut, including 27 in Minnesota. The Hamden Slough staff was moved to the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management Of-

fice which also lost a position, and one maintenance position at Tamarac will not be filled. (See story about Mike Murphy's retirement on page 10).

Despite President Bush's FY'08 budget that continues to erode the National Wildlife Refuge System, there are indications that the new congress may be restoring funding. The House FY'08 Budget Resolution includes strong support for refuges as it approved a non-binding FY'08 federal spending plan on March 29. The House underscored its support for robust budgets for the National Wildlife Refuge System and other priority programs devoted to natural resources and the environment. This may be the first time, ever, a House resolution specifically mentioned the Refuge System. The House resolution now has to be reconciled with a similar version that cleared the Senate earlier in March.

The joint budget resolution ultimately will establish broad revenue and spending targets for the fiscal year. So your letters are still needed until the job is done.

National Wildlife Refuge Association (Washington DC) April 5, 2007

The final signers of this year's letters of members of congress to their colleagues on the House and Senate Interior Appropriations subcommittees asking them to increase funding for the NWRS to 451.5 million in FY '08 included Sen. Norm Coleman. The House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee is taking friends group testimony by April 19, and the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee receives testimony by April 27. The process continues so your e-mails and letters still matter.

Write your congressman and senators!

Your letters and e-mails are still needed!





Become a Tamarac Fish and Wildlife Volunteer

Celebrate Earth Day!

It is spring clean up time on the refuge!
Let's make this part of the earth better for
wildlife and people.



Monday April 23 9:00 am – 12:00

Meet at the Visitor Center

Lots of jobs to choose from: raking,
cleaning the Visitor Center, cleaning
feeders, litter pickup, cleaning kiosks and
more! Bring gloves and wear clothes you
can get dirty! Lunch will be provided by
the Tamarac Interpretive Association.
**Please RSVP to Janice 847-2641 ext. 16
by Thursday, April 19.**

Last year 54 volunteers donated
over 3,900 hours at Tamarac.
**Volunteers are needed in many
different areas. If you are inter-
ested in sharing your time and
talents, contact : Janice Beng-
ston at 218-847-2641 or
Janice_Bengtson@fws.gov.**

Volunteer Orientation May 31

May 31 is volunteer orientation from
9:00 am-noon and from 1:00 pm-3:00
pm. Lunch will be furnished. This is for
members who would like to volunteer at
Tamarac. The orientation will give you
an idea of what help is needed and where
you could volunteer. The afternoon ses-
sion is for all returning volunteers. Please
register for this event with Janice.



Weekend Visitor Center Hosts Needed

Soon the busy summer weekends will be
upon us. **We need your help!** Duties
include greeting visitors, relaying refuge
information, handling retail sales, show-
ing the current movie and assisting with
special projects. The Visitor Center is
open from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm. After-
noons are the most critical due to special
programs and activities being offered. If
interested, contact Janice Bengston.

Environmental Education at Tamarac NWR

Last year the Tamarac staff provided programs for
over 4,000 students and adults. The education
programming continues to grow. Kelly Blackledge is
working with the local non-profit group Natural Inno-
vations on a grant to develop an Environmental Educa-
tion strategy for the five school districts closest to
Tamarac. This project will help focus the educational
programs to better fit graduation standards and teacher
needs. Tamarac Interpretive Association helps support
these programs by providing the tools, equipment and
resources to build a quality experience for the students.
TIA and staff, together, strive to foster good environ-
mental stewards.



**Janice Bengston teaches third graders from Moorhead about beavers.
Bottom Left: First graders from Frazee plant trees with refuge staff.**



Volunteers Needed to Assist with Environmental Education Programs

The month of May is looking very busy and we need your help! Would you like to show off a bald eagle nest using a spotting scope? How about helping kids use their binoculars correctly? Other activities include guiding kids through a bird beak activity and playing a mammal mystery game. Come and have some fun! For more information on dates and times, contact Kelly or Janice at 218-847-2641.



Saturday, June 2

Feather Friendly Hike, 1:00 pm

Celebrate National Trails Day with a birding hike on Tamarac Refuge. This hike is co-sponsored with the North Country Trail Association's Laurentian Lakes Chapter. Meet at the Chippewa Picnic Area on Country Hwy 26. You're invited to bring a sack lunch to eat before we begin. This short and easy hike (2.5 miles round trip) will follow a grassy trail past Booth Lake to Johnson Lake and back. You'll see a Bald Eagle nest, Trumpeter Swan nesting area and special needs of birds that nest in the forest. Due to bird breeding season, no dogs please.

Friday, June 8, 8:00-10:00 pm



Friday Night Frogging

Become part of the tradition! Join Kelly Blackledge for a night of frogging. Identify frogs by their calls while learning about their natural history and significance to the ecosystem. Meet at the visitor center. Bring a flashlight and boots or shoes that can get wet. We'll tromp through a marsh and get a close up look at some of these cool, green critters.

**Visitor Center Open Weekends
Beginning May 18, 10am to 5 pm.**

Wetland Adventures

**Saturday April 21
7:00 pm, Historic Holmes Theater**

"Wetland Adventures", by playwright Carol Anne Hough, will be performed by children on April 21, at the Historic Holmes Theater. Enjoy the talents of a Native American drum group, flutist, and storyteller as you sit back and savor a good story about a boy and his grandfather, wise painted turtles, a quiet snake, and other aquatic creatures. A delicious Native American dinner will be available at 5:30. This innovative production is completely local. Celebrate Earth Day the fun way, and bring the whole family! Call the Holmes Theater in Detroit Lakes for tickets (218)844-SHOW.



John Weber describe dragonfly dreams

Sunday, June 24, 2:00 pm Double Header! Dragonfly Dreams and Butterfly Kisses

Join local favorite, John Weber for an intriguing look into the secret world of dragonflies and butterflies. Enjoy beautiful photography along with a short walk to observe these creatures in the wild. Learn about their fascinating lifestyles and their significance in the balance of nature.

Sunday July 8, 2:00 pm The Secret Lives of Bears

Join Ranger Janice Bengtson to find out about the unique lifestyle of bears. Learn about some amazing adaptations this creature has acquired over thousands of years of evolution. You'll get to touch a bear paw and hear them "talk."

Sunday Movie Schedule

2:00 pm, films run 25-60 minutes

June 3 DOUBLE FEATURE Seasons – Take a trip through the eruption of spring, the growth of summer, the harvest and festivity of autumn, and the dormancy of winter. **New Energy**, see how our state and surrounding region is creating a green energy economy with wind, bio-fuels, and renewable energy technologies.

June 10 Chased by the Light – Learn how renowned photographer, Jim Brandenburg renewed himself through a Zen-like exploration of his craft by taking just one photograph a day for 90 days.

June 17 Beavers, the Biggest Dam Movie You Ever Saw! – Take an intimate swim with beavers and experience the rich aquatic habitat of one of nature's greatest engineers. Great cinematography!

July 1 Wolves – Discover the world of wolves by plane, helicopter, on foot and through time. Beautiful cinematography!

Guided Refuge Tours

Every Thursday from 10-12 noon
Tours start June 7



Visit the new observation deck at Blackbird Lake along the Blackbird Auto Tour with its spotting scopes and great views of birds and wildlife. Accessible parking is available, and the nearby 100' long Woodpecker Trail connects to a parking area. The Blackbird Auto Tour generally opens in April, depending on weather.



Planning a better future for wildlife and people!



By Barbara Boyle, Refuge Manager

Would you build a house without a blueprint? Would you invest your hard earned dollars without consulting a specialist or doing some research? Would you compete in a sporting event without a game plan? You could do all of these things. But would that be wise? To get the most out of your efforts, wouldn't you want to speak with specialists to learn truth from myth, chat with your neighbor for a different perspective and lay out a clear course of action that considers budget, timeline and outcomes?

Well, that's exactly what a Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) is all about. A CCP describes the desired future conditions of a

refuge; provides long-range guidance and management direction to achieve the purposes of the refuge; helps fulfill the mission of the Refuge System; maintains and, where appropriate, restores the ecological integrity of each refuge; and helps achieve the goals of the National Wilderness Preservation System. It is a planning effort, involving neighbors, non-government organizations, local officials, state partners and many interested citizens, that charts a course for the future direction of refuge management.

This sounds like a smart way to go, right? Well, it's not only smart, it's mandated by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 which states that all refuges will be managed in accordance with an approved CCP. That's over 545 refuges. What a lot of work! But the plan is well worth the effort because the planning process provides a unique opportunity to involve individuals and local communities. It's a great way to get people involved, ensure consistent management across the entire Refuge System, emphasize the use of sound science, and provide opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreational use. Planning contributes to informed decision-making that recognizes the needs and interests of all parties, while never losing sight of the mission and goals of

the National Wildlife Refuge System.

So what does this have to do with you? Refuges are established for the protection of wildlife and habitat, and any use of refuge lands and waters must be consistent with this purpose. But National Wildlife Refuges also belong to you. As a member of TIA, you, obviously, have an interest in the refuge and its future. Your input helps us identify the issues, alternatives, and solutions that make the Refuge System work for both wildlife and people. Since Tamarac Refuge may be in your community, you may have knowledge of the lands, and the wildlife and plants that inhabit them. You may have used or owned these lands for years, and you may have a strong sense of attachment and stewardship toward them. You may have concerns about future access or possible land-use restrictions. You may have concerns about how the refuge will affect your livelihood or the economy of the community. Even if you live far from the refuge, you may still have an interest in its management.

So what can you do? Get involved. To kick off the CCP, we will be having several public meetings this summer – July 23, 24 and 25 to be precise. We want to hear from you. Your questions, comments, and concerns will help us to communicate more clearly and to develop a better CCP.

My Adventure at the Tamarac NWR



Miles is in second grade. He visited Tamarac for the first time last August. The small frog he is holding was found on the Old Indian Trail.

By Miles

"What I like about Tamarac. To see osprey, eagles, beavers, red squirrels, trumpeter swans, wolves, foxes, otters, hawks, deer, bear, and owls. You can also buy things like nature toys and stuffed animals. In the museum there is an I-Spy game where you can find animals."

Miles just signed up to be a Fish and Wildlife Volunteer

Why not you?

2006 Christmas Bird Count

Tamarac Refuge's 19th annual Christmas Bird Count was conducted on December 18, 2006. Participation included 18 observers in 7 field parties, both records for us, along with 10 feeder watchers at 8 feeders. The Great Blue Heron, observed at the outlet to Flat Lake is a new species on the Count. It was only the second time a Northern Goshawk was sighted on a Count day. The previous bird was seen in 1992. Two other rare winter birds seen during Count week were a Black-backed Woodpecker on Sunday from the Ogemash Trail, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk seen Thursday from the Blackbird Auto Tour. New records were established for Red-breasted Nuthatches, Rock Pigeons, and Barred Owls. The number of Bald Eagles and Red-bellied Woodpeckers tied previous sighting records. In all, 31 species were seen during the Count, totaling 754 individuals.

Plight of Golden-winged Warbler, Not So Golden



By Wayne Brininger
Refuge Biologist

The Golden-winged warbler is among the most vulnerable and steeply declining of North American passerines, yet its patchy distribution is not well-monitored in many parts of its range. Breeding Bird Survey routes have documented the population decline since 1966, with annual rates of decline of 2.5% throughout its breeding range. The most abrupt declines have occurred in the northeastern U.S. (7.6% decrease per year); while the population has remained stable in the northern and northwestern portions of its range where farmland abandonment and timber harvest of aspen is common. Nationally, the decline may be due, in part, to a loss of habitat resulting from forest succession; change in forest management practices, such as reduced clear-cutting; development; and coal mining. In addition, this decline correlates with the range expansion of the Blue-winged warbler. The northward expansion and zone of overlap into the range of the Golden-winged warbler has led, not only to increased competition, but also to widespread interbreeding between the Golden-winged and Blue-winged warblers. Because of this widespread hybridization, populations of pure Golden-winged warblers may soon disappear.

The Golden-winged warbler is currently listed as a Resource Conservation Priority species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is considered a neotropical migratory species of high conti-



Wayne Brininger, Refuge Biologist



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Photograph

Golden-winged warblers can be seen at Tamarac Refuge along woodland edges and in young aspen stands. Scientists are looking at habitat loss, hybridization with the Blue-winged Warbler, global climate change and the ability to survive in their wintering grounds of Central and South America as possible reasons for the decline.

mental conservation concern by Partners in Flight, which is a collaboration of federal, state and local government agencies; professional organizations; conservation groups; and interested others. An estimated 82% of the global population of Golden-winged warblers breed within Minnesota, Wisconsin and Ontario. A vital 42% the global population breed solely within Minnesota; thus, Minnesota has an obligation to manage the Golden-winged warbler as a stewardship species.

Undoubtedly, Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge has significantly contributed to the regional Golden-winged warbler population in recent years through an active timber harvest program directed toward young aspen management or early successional habitat; however, an accurate population assessment has never been conducted on the refuge to document this contribution. Recent habitat assessments have indicated that the refuge is trending away from early successional habitat, and many of the highly preferred aspen-regenerating clearcuts are succeeding to older age classes. Al-

though the Golden-winged warbler has been studied extensively in eastern North America, basic information on habitat association and reproductive success has never been conducted in the core of its range (Minnesota and Wisconsin). Inadequate information on its life history and requirements is one of the key obstacles to conserving the species.

In 2006, a research project was initiated on Tamarac Refuge to assess the total population of Golden-winged warblers and to determine the densities at which they exist in the available habitat types on the refuge. This information can be used in predictive habitat models and estimates of regional population size. Since there has never been a site-specific census within Minnesota, data from this Tamarac survey will contribute significantly to improving regional population estimates. Tamarac NWR is working with Concordia College to gather data. Watch for Concordia students working in the field this summer as they listen for the “zee bee bee bee” of the Golden-winged warbler.



Featured Volunteer: George Weatherston



George Weatherston was the 2005 volunteer of the year. He volunteers each summer conducting refuge tours and is concluding a three year board term.

The van bounced and rattled as we drove toward the end of North Chippewa Lake. We were the front vehicle of a five-car caravan. It was Thursday; Ruth and I were leading a tour that traveled the back roads and trails of the Refuge--places that were off-limits to the public, except when on a sanctioned tour.

In the back seat lounged two people from Texas who were vacationing in the

Cravin' a Raven

area. Our passengers and the people following us in their vehicles were attentive, friendly, and full of questions when we stopped along the route. Their attitude implied they supported the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge and its mission.

As we jounced over the prairie trail towards the next stop, a large raven suddenly appeared and landed about ten yards ahead of our van. I slowed and braked to a halt. The bird, instead of flying away, hopped, skipped, and jumped further down the trail.

I slowly accelerated, creeping behind the mischievous bird. In another ten yards or so, the raven paused again. Ruth and I looked at each other wondering what kind of game the critter was playing. Our passengers were chuckling in the rear.

The antics of the creature continued. At least four more times, the creature hopped, skipped and jumped further down the trail. The caravan crawled on, halting and starting at the whim of the bird. The conversation in the van

By George Weatherston

switched to laughter. Someone proclaimed, "The rascal is thumbing his beak at us!"

As we gradually neared North Chippewa Lake, the raven decided it had had enough of playing "Follow the Leader" or "Catch Me If You Can." Abruptly it flew up, and veered to the left about thirty feet above the prairie grass. Then to our astonishment, out of the blue, an owl, hawk, or eagle swooped down so fast we missed the kill. All we witnessed was the shadow of the predator's wings and the raven's dropping out of the sky and plopping unceremoniously into the tall grass--never to take wing again.

At the next stop the talk centered on the shenanigans of the raven and the predator who took advantage of the bird's carelessness. It reminded me of when I was a kid. A bunch of us would commonly "horse around." Like the bird's playfulness, once in a while our pranks backfired and turned into a misguided adventure. Luckily, the results were never as deadly.

News Shorts

Mike Murphy Retires

Mike Murphy, Refuge Manager at Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge, retired April 1 after almost 30 years with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Murphy has been at Hamden Slough for the past 17 years and was responsible for upland and wetland restorations, building public support, and developing recreational opportunities. He noted that he and the refuge staff worked many, intense years to restore parts of the area's prairie - wetland complex. This included Bisson Lake, and the 130 wetlands and uplands around the lake, which rapidly became a birding "Hot Spot." When asked what he will miss most, Murphy said he was blessed with a remarkable team of "Refuge Builders", which was committed to restoring the local resources. Earlier this year the Hamden Slough staff was moved to the Detroit Lakes Wetlands Management Office because of flat Fish and Wildlife Service budgets amidst rising costs.

New FWS Zone Officer Brent Taylor Office Located At Tamarac

Tamarac Refuge is the new office location for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement Zone Officer for Minnesota. Officer Brent Taylor recently accepted this position and comes from the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District where he provided law enforcement for Northwest Minnesota including Tamarac, Hamden, Rydell and Glacial Ridge. In his new position Officer Taylor provides law enforcement and administrative assistance to Fish and Wildlife officers, refuges, and wetland management districts in the state of Minnesota. He coordinates large law enforcement activities, special details outside the state that are needed, and is a liaison between officers and the United States Attorney General's office along with other state entities.

Visit: www.tamaracfriends.org

Congratulations Dick Henry

On March 14, The National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) announced the winners of the 2007 Refuge Photo Contest, a digital photo contest showcasing America's national wildlife refuges and the diverse wildlife that depend on them. Dick Henry of Bemidji, MN, who regularly submits winning photos to the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge Photo Contest, won first place for a close-up of a dragonfly. More than 2,200 images from 196 refuges from 49 states and territories were submitted to this second annual Refuge Photo Contest.

New Visitor Center Scopes

An accessible spotting scope is being added ground level on the west side of the visitor center for Marsh Pond wildlife viewing. The spotting telescope on the upper level observation deck has been replaced by one with more power.

In Search of the Wily Wildflower



By Denis Mudderman, Wildflower Novice

Spring wildflowers—they pop up to enjoy some sun, say hello to a bee helping them pollinate, spread some seeds, shoot some roots, and then bow out like an actor leaving the stage to make room for the next act. Many locations in the lake country that haven't been overly disturbed or selectively "greened" with weed killers seem to feature a never ending sequence of wildflowers. Spring wildflowers are especially fleeting. At Tamarac, where there is more undisturbed land with diverse woodlands, meadows, and marshes, the varieties of wildflowers are even more exciting.

Well, as a totally novice wildflower enthusiast, an interest in hunting for wildflowers at Tamarac emerged from taking close-up photos in late summer 2005 of wildflowers with a digital camera using a macro setting. When spring arrived last year, I was ready with camera in hand at the first sign of emerging vegetation.



Hepatica

Announcing spring like the sighting of a robin, the first to emerge on April 13, was the delicate blue, white, or lavender **hepatica** with five or more lobes. I photographed **wood anemone** for the first time on April 27. On May 2-4, I first photographed **trillium** (three large leaves with white flower), **large-flowered bellwort** (high stems with hanging yellow flowers), **bloodroot**, **downy blue violet** and **downy yellow violet**. Early in the spring before the leafing of trees, these wildflowers dot the forest floor. The Old Indian Trail is a good place for an early wildflower hike. In marshes along the Blackbird Auto Tour, I first photographed **marsh marigolds** on May 5, getting a shoe wet in the process.

Last year from middle-May through early June, as trees leafed out, there seemed a particular explosion of new wildflowers. At this state, the easiest and best areas for wildflower hunting, I found, were along the sides of the road in a loop from the Visitor Center, along the Blackbird Auto Tour, and then back to the Visitor Center. (It helps to get out of your car.) April has been cooler this year so far, so dates when wildflowers emerge will probably be later. You can view two collections of my early spring photographs from last year on the TIA website.

The Tamarac gift shop and bookstore at the Visitor Center has a nice collection of wildflower guides. I found Stan Telkiela's *Wildflowers of Minnesota*, an easy beginner's guide. When you are looking at wildflowers, don't forget to keep your eyes open for wildlife.



Bloodroot

By Kelly Blackledge

Bloodroot—the name, comes from the bright red juice which oozes from a cut or broken root. The red juice will rapidly coagulate to protect the wounded area similar to real blood. Beware, the root is poisonous. Historically, a tea was made from the roots to relieve stomach cramps. Sometimes the root was chewed and the spittle placed on burns for relief. The extract was noted by the American Dental Association in the 60's as a promising plaque fighter. The red juice of the roots was used as a dye for fabrics, tools and war paint. Adding oak bark provided tannin which helped set the color and make it more permanent. The leaves are conspicuous, but the blooms can be rare to see since they are very delicate and only last a few days.

Remembering Ted Schaum, 1934 - 2007



Frazee - Vegas Forum Photo

On February 5, Tamarac tragically lost one of our volunteers to a car accident. Ted Schaum was a spirited soul and made a great host at the Visitor Center. His big smile greeted many guests to the refuge. His enthusiasm for Tamarac beamed in his voice and he was always eager to share his favorite places and the attributes of the refuge. Ted was involved in many areas in the community and spoke highly of his favorite "neighbor" Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge. Ted resided on Island Lake just east of the refuge so he often enjoyed hiking the Booth Lake trails. We'll miss his unrelenting support and sharp-witted humor.



Ted Schaum at the August 24, 2006, volunteer picnic (at far left).

NEWSLETTER OF THE
TAMARAC INTERPRETIVE
ASSOCIATION

Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge
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Rochert, MN 56578
Website: www.tamaracfriends.org

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*Tamarac Interpretive Association's mission
is to facilitate activities and programs that
interpret, protect and restore the natural
and cultural resources of
Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge.*

Refuge Website:
www.fws.gov/midwest/tamarac



Emerging Bloodroot on Old Indian Trail, May 4, 2006. Photograph by Denis Mudderman. (See page 11 to learn more about Bloodroot.)