



FALL 2012

TAMARAC TRACKS

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Swan and Friends photo by Patsy Teiken

HEARING AIDS AND LARGE MOUTH BASS

By Don Blanding, President of the Board

I was recently reminded that I'm well past middle age. Our daughters are much closer to middle age, and I'm truly thankful to have reached that point in my life. Among our friends, conversation about sore muscles and joints is now more often about - yes- hearing aids. I might suggest that, among my male friends, there are only two categories: those who have hearing aids and those who should. Women seem to fare better here, perhaps because they've not used shotguns for 50 years.

I start this way because the Tamarac Story I want to tell is 50 years old. Unbelievable, at least, for me. I'm just not that old. Many of our friends can tell stories from the same era and always fondly so.

It's the summer of 1962. Yes, fifty years ago. I'm working in the hardware department of the family retail business selling nuts and bolts, pots and pans, bicycles and tricycles. My friend works in his family business just down the street, a wonderfully traditional men's haberdashery. Keith shares with me in total secrecy that it's only recently been discovered that Pine Lake on "the refuge"

is loaded with large mouth bass. How can this be? Diving ducks, yes, but fish? Our mutual friend Tom is well connected with refuge staff and has the inside story. I'm both skeptical and excited.

After work and supper and a little later than hoped, we drive in Keith's two-tone green 49 Chevy named "Leap." It's a most ugly car with virtually no shock absorbers and as such, it virtually leaps along. We leave highway 34 onto county road 29. Within a quarter mile, we have a flat on an overly worn tire. No problem, there's still time. But the jack in the trunk is in no way what came with the car, and it is of no use. We knock on a few doors and finally find the help we need. Hopefully we'll get to Pine Lake before dark. What a mess.

We drive along the south side of the lake where the public access is now. It's a precarious trail at best, and at what we decide is the end, meaning no longer drivable, we start walking in hip boots and a modest amount of tackle. The shadows are getting long, but we press on. We put on artificial bait of some sort and wade into the water. Still a little time left.



My first cast drops about 20 yards out in front of me, and whap! A beautiful large mouth we estimate to be about 3 or 4 pounds. More casts by both of us are almost always successful. We cast straight out, right side, left side, and it doesn't matter. Within less than 30 minutes we each have 6 bass, and they are unbelievable. (Today there's an ample supply of bass in our lake, and we don't keep any of them. But 50 years ago we did.) By the time we get everything back to the car, it's nearly dark. What's more, we are still the only people there. No one else is in sight.



Become a Friend

Membership: \$20

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Friends of Tamarac NWR

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The Friends of Tamarac NWR 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.

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Term Expires

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Vonnie Jacobson, Fran Mattson, Linda Brockmann, Justine Boots, Kelly Blackledge, Nancy Brennan

Tamarac Tracks is a publication of the Friends of Tamarac serving both the Friends and the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge. *Tamarac Tracks* is published four times a year, mailed to members and made available as an electronic PDF on our website. Please discuss article ideas in advance with the newsletter coordinator (jjacobson@arvig.net).



We bring our catch to Walther's, the prominent tackle shop of the day, and we agree not to enter them into the perpetual fishing contest and certainly NOT to divulge our "secret lake." It's getting late, but our catch draws plenty of attention and we keep our promises. We put the first stringer of 6 on the scale in the display window, astonished when the scale registers just short of 20 pounds. The second stringer is nearly the same. Crazy. Unbelievable.

I go back a few days later early in the morning. I take my friend Steve who will be going back to his home in St Paul and won't have a chance to tell anyone else. The results are the same and we're back in town by 9:00 a.m. Steve's grandpa Alden is thrilled to have the catch, assuring us that they will not be wasted.

About this time, Tom and Keith host a reporter from a Minneapolis paper for another fishing outing at Pine Lake. Collectively these three cast 43 times yielding 42 bass. Naturally this makes for a scoop of sorts for one very lucky outdoors reporter

I don't go back for well over a week. It's in the evening again. I'm with my girlfriend (Carolynn), not really planning on any fishing. We pull off 29 and there are cars everywhere, and they are fishing! People are nearly shoulder to shoulder casting into the lake. While I am disappointed, I don't recall being particularly surprised, given that reporter. With all those people, I decide not to go back, either to fish or.....well, anything else.

I have no pictures to share or support my story. Grandpa Alden is no longer with us. But rest assured that Tom, Keith, and Steve are available and can corroborate these events. And of course there's that article in the Minneapolis paper. I've fished in several lakes and rivers in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Ontario. My Pine Lake experience at Tamarac stands out above the rest.

WHAT'S ALL THE RACKET?

By Neil Powers, Tamarac Refuge Manager

During the past month, the sounds of jack hammers, concrete saws and dump trucks have been a routine part of the Tamarac NWR landscape as construction on the headquarters energy retrofit project commenced. Special funding has permitted the refuge an opportunity to address long-over-due facility upgrades including accessibility improvements. Central to this project is the goal of reducing our overall energy footprint and "tapping" into renewable energy resources like geothermal and solar.

As with many construction projects, demolition is a necessary first step. Visitors taking in the view from across Jim's Marsh have likely witnessed the rapid transition of the exterior of the headquarters building as shingles, siding and windows have been removed in preparation for replacements. The interior of the building is also undergoing an "extreme makeover" as walls are moved, ceilings exposed and concrete flooring removed to address environmental issues and permit the installation of geothermal piping. The changes have been drastic but also exciting knowing that once



complete, the building will better serve the visiting public and staff.

With our recent move into temporary office space and the momentous task of packing and moving thirty years of accumulated stuff behind us, we have turned our attention to the task of adjusting to our new office surroundings at the refuge residence for the duration of the construction project. Special thanks to all of our hard working volunteers who assisted during the move, we really appreciate your help!



Contractors are installing the pipes in the floor for the geothermal heating and cooling system. This is the corner of the building where the public restrooms once were.

Join or Renew your Friends of Tamarac Membership Today!

Throughout the year Friends offers many educational programs for children and adults, for example: hundreds of elementary school children come to Tamarac for a day of exploring and learning about nature; a volunteer botanist leads a wildflower walk through Tamarac's woods during the summer; another volunteer guides

photography tours; the Fall Festival, which has no admission fee, is a Friends project; we are a sponsor of the annual Festival of Birds, which brings people from across the nation to Tamarac.

Membership dues paid now are good through September 2013. A membership

costs \$20 and pays for your subscription to Tamarac Tracks. Please join or renew today and consider joining at the patron, steward, or life member level to support other Friends programs. There is a membership envelope with this newsletter for your convenience. Thank you for supporting Friends of Tamarac NWR!

Learning to Make a **World** of Difference

By Sydney Henderson, Tamarac Summer Intern

Over the past eight months I have had the most fantastic opportunities, a chance to travel in New Zealand for a month, study in Australia for another five, as well as be a volunteer intern at Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge. In New Zealand some of my favorite experiences were black water rafting through the Waitomo Glow Worm caves, and trekking the Tongariro Alpine Crossing. Australia had just as many wonderful opportunities, such as kayaking, fishing and eating kangaroo cooked on an open fire with an aboriginal family in Shark Bay, taking a road trip to Exmouth and Tom Price to snorkel pristine Ningaloo Reef Marine Park, and hiking through the beautiful iron filled gorges of Karijini National Park. There is nothing like staring into the night sky of the outback through the screen roof of your tent.

While abroad I had an experiential learning seminar through The College of St. Benedict as well as three courses through the University of Notre Dame in Fremantle, Western Australia that

included Maritime Archaeology, Understanding Sustainable Development Practices and Natural Resource Management.

As a senior at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, MN, an enormous emphasis is placed on getting out into the world and gaining practical experience. My time studying abroad definitely widened my horizons, gave me more of an appreciation for the opportunities available to me back home and allowed me to compare an international conservation system to our own. As a volunteer intern at the refuge, under Kelly Blackledge I've had a variety of experiences. A few of those include, learning about the history of Tamarac, leading "Wild Wednesday" educational programs, making interpretive signs about clean energy and wildlife, clearing trails and making a video about winter at Tamarac.



Sydney Henderson of Detroit Lakes volunteered her time as a Student Intern for Tamarac this summer. Here she is sharing a nature story with children at a Wild Wednesday event."

I look forward to meeting you at the Fall Festival on September 29th!



Connie Carlson, Jeanine Ehnert and Nancy Brennan.

Connie Carlson, Jeanine Ehnert and Nancy Brennan attended a workshop in June, called "Teaching in the Outdoor Classroom" at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Prairie Wetlands Learning Center in Fergus Falls.

Our experience included working with 5th and 6th graders who were participating in a Summer Explorers Biology Camp. As environmental educators we had a chance to learn new techniques for teaching in the outdoors.

We guided students as they discovered and explored the biology of prairies and wetlands. They even had an opportunity to wade in a wetland pond to document and record plant and invertebrate life. Students were also excited to find the biggest leeches ever!

Attending the workshop has provided us, as volunteer teachers, with new skills that will support and strengthen Tamarac's Environmental Education Program. Our outdoor classroom experience emphasized the importance of teaching lessons that are consistent with a curriculum that meets state academic standards.

We are excited to share the joy of the outdoor classroom with our school children as they discover the wonders of Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge. It is the perfect place to have fun, learn and connect with nature.

By Connie Carlson

SWANS: A Nesting Success

By Sydney Henderson, Tamarac Intern



A pair of swans successfully nested this summer on Jim's Marsh, the site of the first swan release 25 years ago

You may have seen Trumpeter Swans flying over the wetlands of Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge but do you know how long it takes for this much-loved bird to reproduce? Reproduction of a species is a key element when it comes to restoring a population that has been gone for over 100 years. It takes three to six years for Trumpeter swans to reach reproductive age, so patience is a virtue for Fish and Wildlife Service members monitoring the return of this species.

Trumpeter swans select life-long mates around the age of two or three years but may take as many as seven years to nest and reproduce. In the early spring, they begin to build their nests on ponds, wetlands or quiet lakes by uprooting plants such as cattails, bulrushes, horsetail and sedges, piling them to create a nest. The male (cob) works to free the plants and pile them so that the female (pen) may create an indented area for the eggs

to be laid in. These nests mounds are often used from year to year and can take up to two weeks to build! A single nest can reach up to 12 feet in diameter!

The pen lays one egg every other day until she has a clutch of approximately three to nine eggs. She will sit on the eggs for an average of 35 days and when the baby swans (cygnets) hatch they are a dark grey color and weigh about a half of a pound each.

Adult swans are mainly herbivores or plant eaters, but young cygnets feed on crustaceans and other insects they are able to catch. After about five weeks the cygnets begin to include more vegetation in their diets and start to feed in deeper water where they can tip and uproot vegetation with their flat bills. Cygnets grow very quickly and can reach full size in about eight to ten weeks.

The first flight for cygnets takes place around 13-15 weeks and they begin the practice for migration southward. For their first winter, cygnets migrate with their parents to warmer wintering grounds but after that first year they are driven away staying with their sibling groups until they find mates.

Currently there are more than 30 pairs of adult trumpeter swans nesting at Tamarac NWR with estimations of about 80-100 cygnets fledging each year. With such a long reproductive cycle it is easy to see the many challenges U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Minnesota DNR and other partners face while trying to reintroduce swans. However, they have done an outstanding job both ecologically, with the success of their reintroduction and socially, with the many programs they have held over the past 25 years to inspire others to take an interest in this fascinating species.

Tamarac's Outdoor CLASSROOM

Students from the Circle of Life Academy participate in educational activities on the refuge three times each school year. Along with addressing graduation standards in science and other subjects they also practice the Ojibwe names of wildlife. On the woodland hike they looked for the food cache of ajidamoo (squirrel), they watched for waabizii (swan) on the marsh, and saw a movie about amik (beaver). Here are a few student letters about their experience at Tamarac.

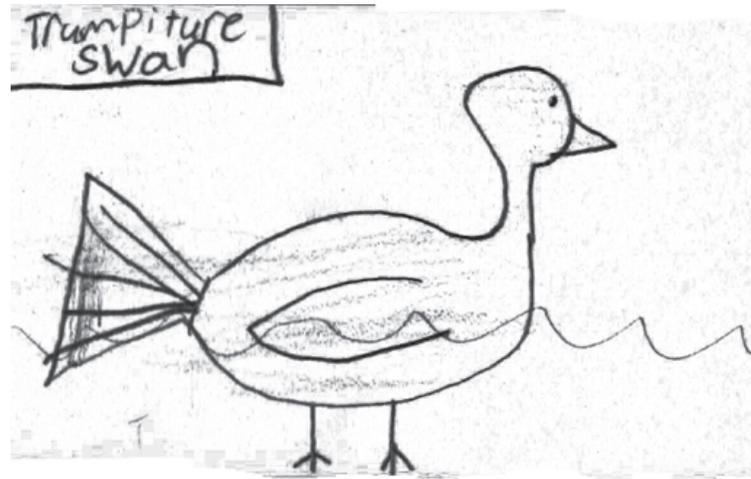
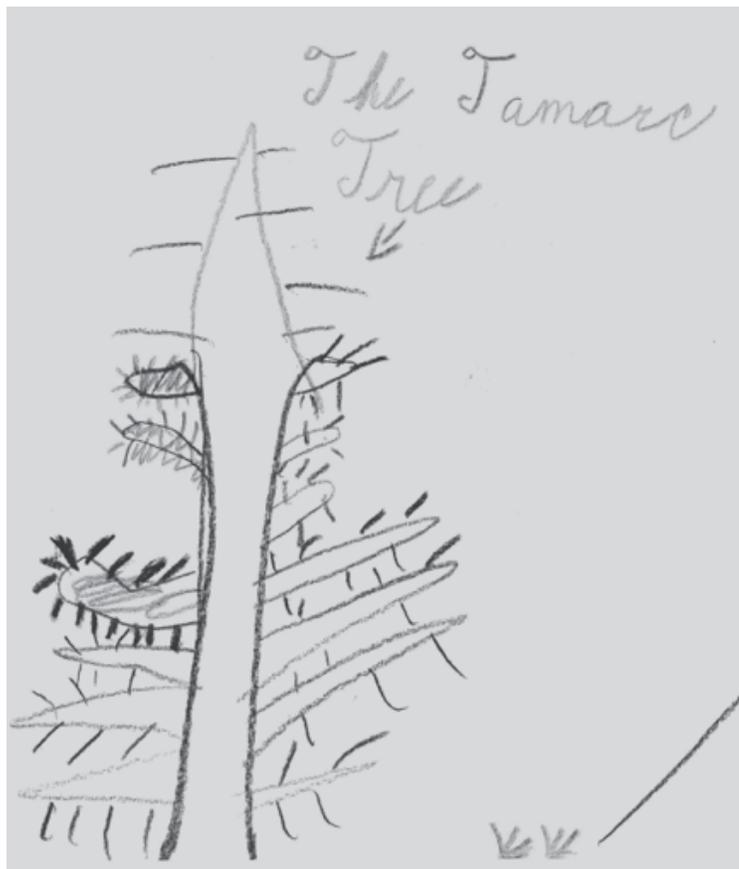
Dear Staff,

I am the kid with the yellow sweater. I really liked the GPS, the walk with Ron and feeling the furs. But the best part was the movie about the beavers. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Yellow sweater guy,

Treyton



Artwork by Sharissa, Circle of Life Academy

Dear Tamarac Volunteers,

Thank you for sharing your knowledge with us.

Thank you Ron and Denise for taking us on a hike. I like the red squirrels cache they really looked like seeds. I also liked the word bulking up because I like the word bulk.

Thank you Janice for showing us furs. The fur that I liked was the wolf fur. The wolf fur is reall cool but it wasn't as soft as the other ones, but I still like it.

Thank you Ranger Rick and Dennis for teaching us about the weather. I like when you blew the bubbles. What I liked the most was taking the pictures.

Thank you Kelly for teach us about the GPS. The GPS is really cool and useful to use. What I like the best about the GPS is the tracking.

Thank you guys and girls for letting us go to Tamarac.

Sincerely,

Jaiden

Plugged Into Nature's Power

by Marc Henderson, Detroit Lakes Middle School Science Teacher

With August winding to a close and a new school year around the corner, I can't help but wonder how many parents spent their summer listening to statements like "I'm bored!" or "There's nothing to do!" and following up with the patented parental response, "Go outside and play!"

As adults, we get frustrated and refuse to accept that our own kids in the glorious freedom of summer can't come up with something to entertain themselves. After all, they have more "stuff" to play with than we ever had. I regularly remind my children that when I was a kid there were four channels on the TV and I could play outside for hours with nothing but a stick!

The painful truth is there's a reason kids feel the way they do. They are suffering from what Richard Louv describes as "Nature-Deficit Disorder", a division between young people and the natural world. Simply put, both kids and adults don't spend as much time outdoors, and they have lost touch with it. Outdoor spaces have been replaced by television, cell-phone, internet, computer screen, X-Box, Wii, and the DVD. Society is so "plugged in" to a virtual world that provides us with artificial stimulation that we're losing creativity and imagination. Doctors, educators, and a host of state and federal organizations have begun to amass a mountain of evidence that supports the idea that humans are negatively impacted when they are distanced from nature. Louv states that

...at the very moment that the bond is breaking between the young and the natural world, a growing body of research links our mental, physical, and spiritual health directly to our association with nature – in positive ways...studies suggest that thoughtful exposure...to nature can even be...therapy for attention-deficit disorders and other maladies.

"Biophobia", the fear of the natural world, and "Extinction Of Experience", the loss of awareness and appreciation for nature, are two other terms that describe this same phenomenon. No matter the language, our natural spaces are shrinking and our busy electronic lives are forcing us into a more suburban lifestyle.

The good news is that nature deficit disorder does have a cure and it's some of the most enjoyable medicine out there. We simply need to take the time to "unplug" ourselves from the electronics and "plug in" to the healing power of nature. On a sweeping tour of the area one can find prairie pothole grasslands, stands of deciduous hardwoods, hundreds of lakes formed by glacial erosion, or thick conifer forests. This provides the perfect environment for children to witness diversity

and interaction among living things. It also gives them an opportunity to view firsthand the effects that we as humans have on the land through farming, logging, and recreational enjoyment. Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge, Sucker Creek Preserve, Dunton Locks County Park and Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge are just a few examples of natural areas that are nearby and available for public enjoyment.



VOLUNTEERVIBES

The 2012 Volunteers of the Year

2012 is a special year as two of Tamarac's best received the volunteer of the year award! Jeanine and Luverne Ehnert began volunteering in 2008 as members of our water quality monitoring team. For three seasons they spent many hours out on the refuge taking ownership of their assigned sites. As that program came to a close, Jeanine began looking into other areas to volunteer. Soon she became involved in our environmental education program. She started as an assistant and soon was leading kindergarteners on photo treks, third graders on a weather observation activity and a hike through the woods in search of hidden critters. She even showed children how to walk like a deer and hop like a hare! During this past year, she has donated over 170 hours towards environmental education. She has attended workshops to enhance her skills as a naturalist and teacher. Luverne was also lured into assisting with EE and later leading activities. During this past year, he has donated 100 hours to the program. He focused his efforts on our 3rd grade GPS activity setting the stage as they set out on a course to discover the wildlife and habitats of the refuge. He has endured chilly autumn days,



Jeanine and Luverne Ehnert, volunteers of the year.

freezing temps of winter, and the ticks of spring with hundreds of kids! This spring he attended Heavy Equipment Operation training and became certified to drive a tractor, which allowed him to mow refuge trails. Jeanine has attended several workshops to enhance her skills as a naturalist and teacher. Both of their easy going attitudes and flexibility in scheduling are much appreciated. Jeanine

and Luverne have consistently worked Spring Clean-up Day, the Fall Festival, and were featured artists at last year's Holiday Open House demonstrating their talents in weaving and birch bark basketry. We are so fortunate to have this dynamic duo representing the refuge and its mission. Congratulations to Luverne and Jeanine Ehnert!!

2012 We Fest Clean Up Crew

A huge thank you for the volunteers that stepped forward to help raise funds for the Friends of Tamarac by participating in We Fest Clean-up.

2 day volunteers:

Don Blanding
Nancy Brennan
Betty and Dave Gunderson
Vonnice and John Jacobson
Ron Jenson
Ken and Fran Mattson
Ruth Olson
Dave Schneider
Rick Pechmann
Rick Stitch

One day volunteers:

Carolyn Blanding
Kelly Blackledge
Linda and Bob Brockmann
Luverne and Jeanine Ehnert
Kay and Howard Lohman
Dave Moen
Gary and Gail Mohlenkamp
Roger and Terri Olson
George and Shirley Read
Bill and Deb Wickum



We Fest clean up crew.

Luau 2012

Volunteers Celebrate Accomplishments

The annual volunteer recognition picnic was held on August 23. Over 70 volunteers, staff, friends and family came out to enjoy the evening. Dinner was catered by Spanky's and included chicken and ribs, baked beans, corn on the cob, and a yummy dessert. Refuge manager Neil Powers welcomed everyone and highlighted special accomplishments from the past year. Awards were then presented to those who had reached key milestones: Don Blanding, John Hovdenes, Charlie Leitheiser, Connie Carlson, and Nancy Brennan were presented the Assistant Director's Award for reaching 500 hours of service. The Director's Award was presented to Linda Hunt, John Jacobson,

and Vonnie Jacobson for reaching 1000 hours. Recognition was given to our new Aquatic Invasive Species educator team with special thanks to Craig Lewis for leading the effort. To conclude the evening, Fran Mattson, last year's volunteer of the year, presented the 2012 Volunteer of the Year Award to Jeanine and Luverne Ehnert.

In 2012, 192 volunteers contributed 9130 hours to the refuge. That's

amazing. Thanks so much for sharing your talents with Tamarac. Whether you greet visitors, teach children, inspect boats, count loons, mow our trails, pick up trash, plan and host events, or move boxes, you are much appreciated. You are great ambassadors for the National Wildlife Refuge System.



The volunteer recognition Luau was held in the Tamarac maintenance shop.

Welcome our "New" Resident Volunteers

Pat and Ward New are calling Tamarac home until October 20th – hoping the snow doesn't fly before then! Since their arrival, they have been our dynamic duo of mowing, trimming, sign installation, painting, and many other tasks making sure our visitors have great opportunities to view wildlife, feel welcome and safe. Using their teaching backgrounds, they will soon be part of the environmental education program.

As a child growing up in Indiana, Pat always had an interest in music. Because her parents would pay for a "church" college and not IU, she attended Manchester College and majored in music education. She never ever wanted to be a teacher! She wanted to perform. After receiving her degree, she taught K-8 for one year and absolutely loved it! She then moved to Urbana, went back to school and received an elementary teaching degree and taught 3rd grade for 3 years. Her husband's job brought them to Boston where she took a break and worked for GE. In the midst of this, she had two sons. She moved again to Tampa and then to Mobile AL. She taught inner city children there. Pat was a teacher for 29 years.

Ward grew up in Alabama. As a young man, he served in the Navy. Ward married and eventually had two sons. His first career was in the electrical supply business where he became an operations manager. His work took him to SW Louisiana for 8 years, then returning to Alabama. After 25 years in the business, he decided it was time for a change. With Pat's encouragement, he chased his dream of teaching. He went back to school fulltime while working fulltime and received both a bachelor's and master's degree in education, certified in K-8 grades. He taught for 15 years.

It was in Mobile where Pat and Ward met. Pat was impressed with Ward because he knew what a pileated woodpecker was! Their common love of nature brought them together. They married on the Appalachian Trail in Georgia and spent a week hiking for their honeymoon. They grew tired of city life in Mobile and moved to Suches, a tiny town surrounded by the Chattahoochee National Forest.

Ward and Pat are both National Board Certified in early adolescent science. Together they became Education Specialists completing research on the



Pat and Ward New

effects of playing music on reading comprehension. While teaching, they took advantage of summer learning experiences in places such as Wyoming and Nova Scotia. They were also lucky enough to travel to the Arctic NWR. Their hobbies include gardening, birding, eating, cooking, experiencing different cultures, photography, kayaking and their dogs- Newton and Jr. Volunteering has taken them to Yaquina Head Natural Area in Oregon which is "absolutely gorgeous", Pea Island NWR where they worked with green and loggerhead turtles, St. Marks NWR in FL, Black Bayou NWR in LA, and Sacramento NWR in California where there was "wonderful waterfowl in the thousands." Their home base is Georgia and they spend 6-8 months out of the year on the road.

Tamarac's 2012 Volunteer Milestones

25 HOURS

Rick Stich
Jay Wheeler
John Haack
Jenny DuBay
Sue Braun
Jim Legler
Bill Wickum
Jamie Klein

50 HOURS

Harry Halvorson
Rod Nord
Denise Warweg
Kathy Curphy (25)
Hannah Vorrie (25)
Sidney Henderson (25)
Jake Nelson
Kyle Kessler

100 HOURS

Cathy Ferguson
Craig Lewis
Howard Lohman (50)
Nancy Olson
Dave Schneider (50)

200 HOURS

Betty Gunderson (100)
Leslie Holen
Rick Pechmann
Donna Dustin

300 HOURS

Luverne Ehnert
Earl Johnson
Ken Mattson
Bonnie Compton
Jerry Compton
Pat New
Ward New

400 HOURS

Linda Brockman (300,400)
Jeanine Ehnert (300,400)
Andrew Flaten
Mike Johnson

500 HOURS

Don Blanding (300,400)
John Hovdenes
Charlie Leitheiser

700 HOURS

Connie Carlson (500,600)
George Weatherston

800 HOURS

Nancy Brennan (500, 600, 700)
Lois Brantner
Del Bergseth
Fran Mattson (700)

1000 HOURS

Linda Hunt (800,900)
John Jacobson (800, 900)
Vonnice Jacobson (600, 700, 800, 900)

3000 HOURS

Ron Jenson

9000 HOURS

Denis Mudderman

Be a Citizen Scientist

By Denis Mudderman, Tamarac Volunteer

Citizen science is a recent catch phrase for programs where amateurs and interested "citizens" can record observations and make a contribution to science. Now, Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge has its own citizen science program through Project Noah where you can more fully document your wildlife or plant sighting. More than just traveling Tamarac with a camera, this citizen science program provides visitors a whole new way to explore the refuge and learn about nature.

Project Noah is an award-winning website (www.projectnoah.org) launched in early 2010 with support from National Geographic. Tamarac's citizen science program is set up as a Project Noah mission.

Sightings of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, insects, plants, and fungi alive in their natural settings can be posted. Information included in a sighting are common name and scientific name (if known), a description, and notes on the habit. Like most citizen science programs, a photo and exact location are critical. Photos help to verify the sighting or help in identification. Multiple photos can be submitted along with video. Location is by latitude and longitude obtained by a GPS unit or through a Google Map interface where you can position an icon for your sighting.

The Project Noah website has parallels to Facebook. Anyone can create a login. You "join" missions that you want to be involved in, like the Tamarac NWR mission. Sightings are reviewed by Project Noah volunteers before making them public. Other people can comment on your posting. You also don't need to know the name of a sighting and you can request identification help. A data sheet that includes the information you should record is available on the Friends website. If you are not into computers or use the internet you can still contribute by submitting to us the completed data sheet – a photo and exact location is needed for Project Noah. When the Visitor Center reopens next year

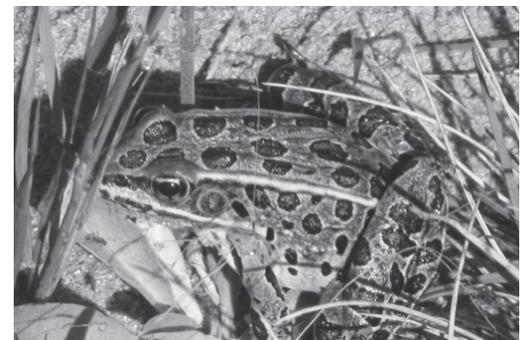
project
noah



Tamarac NWR Project Noah Sighting: Dragonfly-species unknown-posted for ID

we will have a public computer data station connected to the internet where sightings can be posted and help can be provided.

Our citizen science program is a part of our National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Nature of Learning grant. In addition to individuals and families, we particularly invite youth groups, home school groups, or smaller school groups to plan Tamarac visit this fall for a day or part of the day citizen science expedition. We also have five Citizen Science checkout packs with camera, GPS unit, nature guides, and other resources for conducting Project Noah sightings on Tamarac. For additional information or scheduling this fall a Citizen Science activity group visit contact Denis Mudderman, tamaracweb@yahoo.com.



Tamarac NWR Project Noah Sighting: Northern Leopard Frog.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Friday September 14, 4:00 – 8:00 pm at the Richwood Winery

Toast to Tamarac! The Friends of Tamarac invite you to their second annual Toast to Tamarac at Richwood Winery. The fundraiser will include wine tasting,



Come out and paddle Two Island Lake on September 16.

appetizers, silent auction, games of chance and live music by the David Ferreira Trio, accompanied by Mike Bullock from Mike and the Monsters. Cost is \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Profits from this event will help support the environmental education program at Tamarac which connects children with nature.

Saturday, September 15, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Tamarac Citizen Science Program Introduction Adventure Learn how to turn your Tamarac wildlife or plant sightings into a documented citizen science observation. The Tamarac specific program is a fun refuge activity that visitors can do alone or as a group while making a valuable contribution. We will search for plants, wildlife, insects, reptiles, etc. and learn how to document the sighting. Be prepared for modest walking and bring your camera

if you have one. Meet at the Chippewa Picnic Area.

Sunday September 16, 2:00 pm

Two Island Paddle Join a Tamarac Ranger for a kayak cruise on Two Island Lake. Learn about the aquatic wildlife ecosystem while watching wildlife during this special time of year. Bring your own kayak or canoe. Life jackets are required. Meet at the Two Island Lake access on Hwy 143.

Sunday September 23, 2:00 pm

Fall Color Nature Photo Safari - Experience autumn on the refuge through the lens of a camera! With the fall colors nearing their peak, we will travel by car caravan to some very

scenic and perhaps less known areas on the refuge. Discover how Tamarac's wildlife and plants prepare for winter. Meet at the Chippewa Picnic Area located 3 miles past the visitor center on County Hwy 26.

Saturday September 29 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Annual Fall Festival - Swans, A Tamarac Legacy Spend a day at the settlers' cabins to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the return of the Trumpeter. Learn about its natural history and struggle for survival through stories, activities and puppetry. Venture behind the gates into the wilderness on a guided refuge tour to view trumpeters and the beautiful places they call home. View the Annual Photo Contest entries and vote for your favorite. Guest performer will be story teller Michael Gallo. Lunch will be available for sale.

Saturday October 6, 10:00 am

Autumn Hike The North Country National Scenic Trail has arrived on the refuge! The Laurentian Lakes Chapter invites you to get a taste of what's to come. Join us as we explore a portion of the trail. This hike is approximately 3 miles and will traverse through a mature hardwood forest. The hike will be one way starting from 400th Ave and ending on the Blackbird Wildlife Drive. Special note; Wearing an article of blaze orange is recommended. Meet at the Chippewa Picnic Area located 3 miles past the visitor center on County Hwy 26. Shuttles will be provided.

Sunday October 7, 2:00 pm

Forest Fungi Walk Join USDA plant biologist Tom Gulya for a walk in the woods. Explore the maple- basswood forest while in pursuit of fascinating fungi! Learn how to identify mushrooms and other fungi as you enjoy the colors of the season. Meet at the Old Indian Hiking Trail located on County Hwy 29 in the southern half of the refuge.



Tom Gulya explores the world of fungi with young visitors.

**NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS
OF TAMARAC NWR**

Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge
35704 County Highway 26
Rochert, MN 56578
www.tamaracfriends.org
Phone: 218-847-2641 Ext. 21

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

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



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The location of the old cabins on the refuge will be the site for the Tamarac Fall Festival, Sept. 29, 2012. Ole Dahl cabin photo by George Read.