



SPRING 2012

TAMARAC TRACKS

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Grand Prize Winner : Great Blue Heron, Mating at Tamarac Rookery Photo by Rodney Ludwig

Imminent Danger

By Don Blanding, President of the Board

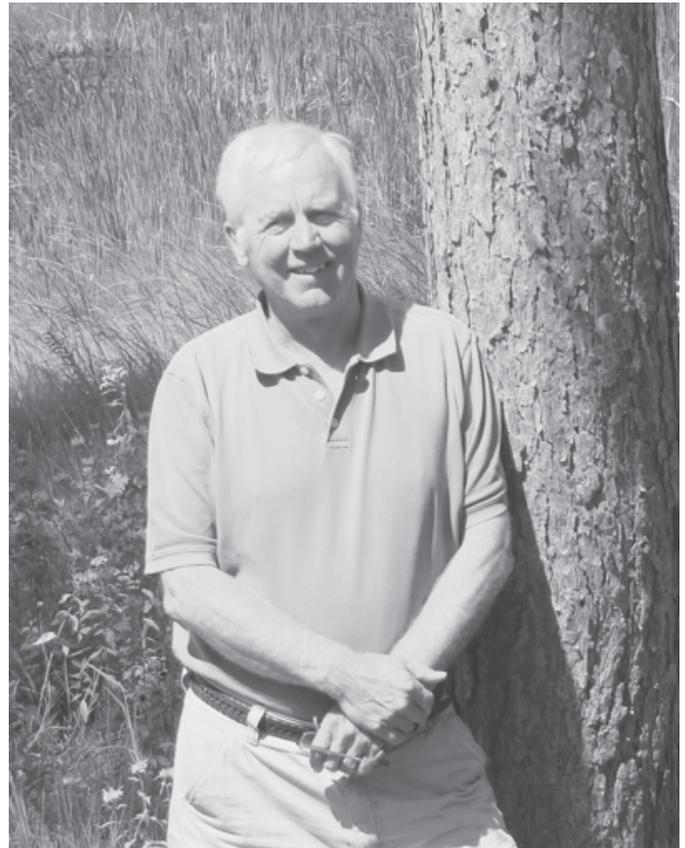
Fishing, duck hunting and wildlife watching are activities that my family and I have treasured on the waters of Tamarac Refuge for generations. Along with the lake I live on today, these precious waters are threatened by aquatic invasive species. Zebra mussels, water milfoil, and purple loosestrife are moving into our area fast and threaten the habitat and the wonderful experiences of nature in Lake County.

People come from all over to fish and hunt in a pristine setting on the refuge. The chances of someone launching a boat that was previously in an infested lake is pretty good and it only takes one. With just one infested boat, trailer, canoe, or waders a once pristine lake is in peril. Yes, even a lake with no houses or docks in a protected landscape is in jeopardy with the onset of an aquatic invasive species.

Tamarac has educational signs at each boat launch, brochures at the center and there is even more information available from the state, county and lake associations. There are now laws in place to require boats and trailers to be washed, drained and dried before moving between lakes. I fear this isn't enough. Without very aggressive laws we will have many more bodies of water in serious trouble including the lakes of Tamarac.

An increasing number of people feel that the current laws do too little, and if we're not careful, it will be too late. I hope you will get involved, speak out and help protect our lakes.

**If you would like to become a Volunteer Aquatic Invasive Species Inspector on the refuge please contact Tamarac's volunteer coordinator Janice Bengtson at 218-847-2641 x16 .



Become a Friend

Individual/Family: \$20

Patron: \$100

Life Member: \$250

Student: \$10

As a member, you will receive our quarterly newsletter mailed to your home and a 10% discount on purchases from *Tamarac Wildlife Gifts & Bookstore*. Download a membership from our website. (www.tamaracfriends.org)



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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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).

Friends of Tamarac NWR

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	Term Expires
Detroit Lakes, MN	2014
Detroit Lakes, MN	2012
Ogema, MN	2013
Rochert, MN	2014
Detroit Lakes, MN	2012
Frazeo, MN	2013
Rochert, MN	2014
Ogema, MN	2012
Rochert, MN	2013
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Detroit Lakes, MN	2013
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A GLIMPSE TOWARD THE **FUTURE**

By Neil Powers, Tamarac Refuge Manager



The Federal Duck Stamp Program has been called one of the most successful conservation programs ever initiated and is a highly effective way to conserve America's natural resources. Portions of Tamarac Refuge were purchased using funds generated from the sales of the Duck Stamp. Long-term conservation and protection of critical wildlife habitat in the Tamarac Wetland Management District is often accomplished through the acquisition of conservation easements. Established by Congress 1958, the Small Wetlands Acquisition Program established a mechanism to acquire conservation easements from

landowners interested in selling specific rights to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that include perpetual protection of wetlands and grasslands. These properties remain in private ownership with the vast majority of them still part of functioning farming or ranching operations. The acreage acquired with each easement becomes part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Conservation easements are very common throughout the Prairie Pothole Region which includes parts of the Tamarac Wetland Management District and provide more than 2.7 million acres of migratory bird habitat for species like waterfowl, shorebirds, songbirds and many threatened and endangered species. The success of this program is reflected in the high priority placed at the National and Regional levels and it continues to serve as a model for other conservation agencies that are targeting long-term protection of unique wildlife habitats such as forests, river corridors and floodplains.

Conservation easements are funded through sales of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp. While this stamp is commonly referred to as the "Duck Stamp" due in part to its association with licensing

requirements for waterfowl hunters, the benefits provided to a broader suite of wildlife cannot be underestimated with literally thousands of species using these habitats. Photographers, birdwatchers, wildlife enthusiasts and conservationists have long recognized the benefits of purchasing a "Duck Stamp". To those individuals protection of wetlands, grasslands and wild places means opportunities to witness the elegance of the trumpeter swan, the garbled call of the bobolink or the musical madness of a marsh in spring. Have you purchased your stamp yet?



The first day of sale for the 2012-2013 Duck Stamp is Friday, June 29. Duck Stamps are available for sale at the Tamarac Gift Shop.

NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

Friends of Tamarac appreciate the loyalty and generosity of our many members and volunteers! Memberships and donations fund many programs, including education programs for children and adults throughout the year, the bus fund, the Fall Festival, and the Friends webpage. The membership year runs from October through October. Following is a list of memberships received since our last newsletter through April 1st.

LIFE MEMBERS:

Cyndi & Melissa	Anderson
David & Ingeborg	Anderson
Howard & Linda	Anderson
Don & Carolynn	Blanding
Bob & Linda	Brockmann
Kent & Connie	Carlson
Greg	Hoch
Joann	Knapp
Fran	Mattson
Roger	Minch
Nancy	Moulden
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John and Lance	Pitzl
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Damien	Society
First National Bank	
Brian	Halverson
George & Sally	Oja
Ruth	Olson

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS:

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Mary	Aasness
Art & Arlene	Bakker
Ron & Vickie	Beaton
Rod & Deanie	Bergen
Ruth	Bergquist
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John & Justine	Boots
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Roger & Debra	Engstrom
Tom & Cathy	Fritz
Juneve & David	Givers
Mark & Mary	Green
Kent	Harrel
Richard & Georgia	Hecock
Boyd & Leslie	Holen
John	Hovdeness
John & Roma	Jacoby
Edward	Janzen
Michele	Jenson

Ron & Jan	Jenson
Judy	Johnson
Walter	Johnson
Loxley & Bob	Koshnick
Matthew & Lindilou	Kulzer
Paul & Shar	Legenhausen
Craig	Lewis
Howard	Lohman
Dennis & Joanne	McCarl
David & Miriam	Moen
Jon & Lucy	Norman
Kathy & Tim	Olson
Leif & Marissa	Olson
Bill & LuAnn	Otto
Rick	Pechmann
Beverly	Satre
Dave & Janine	Schneider
Ruth	Solie
Jim & Mary	Spenningsby
Mike & Amy	Stearns
Dick & Claire	Wilson
Katherine & David	Wilson
Lynette & Ray	Vlasak

TRUMPETER SWANS:

A DREAM COME TRUE

BY CARROL HENDERSON

The year 2012 marks the 39th year I have had the privilege of working for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. I was hired in 1974 to be the assistant manager of the Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area and for three years had the opportunity to work with waterfowl management including work on Canada geese, mallards, and wood ducks. In 1977 I was hired by Section of Wildlife Chief Roger Holmes to head a new unit in state government—the Nongame Wildlife Program.

Nongame wildlife—broadly defined, it was all the wildlife in Minnesota you are not supposed to shoot at, ranging from frogs and toads to butterflies, bats, eagles, and peregrine falcons. I still recall asking at the close of my job interview for the Nongame Wildlife Program position about the prospects for reintroducing trumpeter swans. The response I got was not very encouraging because they had been written off as “extirpated” since the 1880s, and early efforts to reintroduce the swans in the 1960s had not been very successful. But this was a new program with new opportunities, and I was an optimistic Norwegian by nature and not to be dissuaded by such pessimism. For the first several years of the Nongame Wildlife Program the annual budget was less than \$30,000, including my salary, so that limited the potential impact of the program.

When the Nongame Wildlife Checkoff law was passed in 1980 at the initiative of then Minnesota senator Collin Peterson from Detroit Lakes, it opened a whole new world of opportunity for fulfilling dreams for restoration and management of rare or long extirpated Minnesota wildlife that fell into the long-neglected “nongame” category, including the trumpeter swan.

I began collaborating with others previously interested in trumpeter swans like members of The Trumpeter Swan Society, Hennepin Parks (now Three Rivers Parks), faculty from the University of Minnesota and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. By 1982 I had drafted a restoration plan for restoration of the magnificent swans to Minnesota with co-author Dr. Jim Cooper from the University of Minnesota.

Our modest plan identified a goal of establishing 30 breeding pairs of trumpeter swans in the state. We selected the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge in Becker County and the nearby White Earth Indian Reservation as the core area for swan releases. The Minto Flats wetlands west of Fairbanks were selected for collection of swan eggs that were in mid to late stages of incubation for return to Minnesota and subsequent hatching, rearing for two years, and release in the Tamarac area.

I collected fifty eggs each year in 1986, 1987, and 1988 in Alaska through collaboration with the Pacific Flyway Council, Alaska Game and Fish, and the Alaska office of the USFWS. Swan technician Steve Kittelson hatched and reared the eggs at the Carlos Avery Wildlife Refuge. We hatched an average of 43 cygnets from each collection of 50 eggs. Meanwhile, we had also been receiving cygnets raised at several zoos in the US including the Minnesota Zoo in Apple Valley, Brookfield Zoo in Chicago, Tulsa Zoo, and Sioux Falls Zoo in South Dakota, and from cygnets reared by private propagators.

The cygnets were held in rearing ponds at the Carlos Avery Wildlife Refuge for 23 months. Meanwhile, DNR swan technician Peggy Hines was working in the Detroit Lakes area identifying wetlands where the swans could be released.

The first group of 23-month old swans was ready for release at the Tamarac NWR in April of 1987—25 years ago! That release was followed up with release of 44 swans in 1988, 27 swans in 1989, and 38 swans in 1990. A total of 326 swans have been released to re-establish this species in Minnesota at a 20-year restoration cost of approximately \$514,000.

In 1988 two breeding pairs of swans attempted to raise young, and they succeeded in hatching one cygnet. Now, 24 years later, approximately 1500 cygnets are being hatched in the wild every year.

The response of the swans has been the fulfillment of a dream. In 2011 a winter swan count in Minnesota resulted in an estimate of 5500 swans that included over 500 breeding pairs.



Carrol Henderson and swan in the beginning years of restoration.

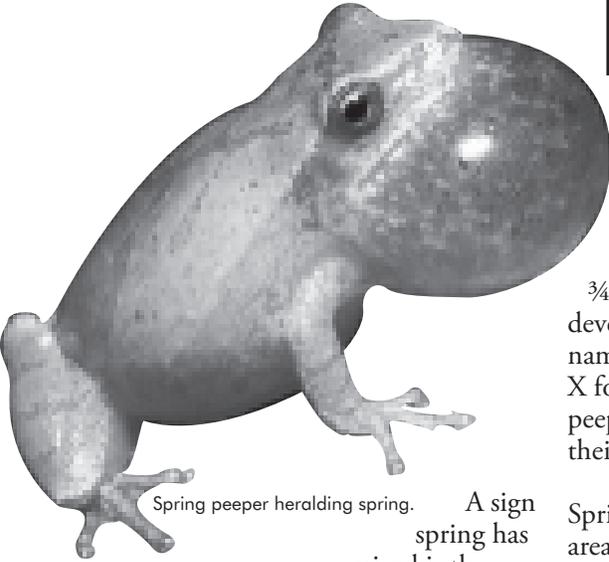
Those breeding pairs have spread throughout much of the state and also expanded into North Dakota, Manitoba, and Ontario. The population still continues to increase at a rate of about 16 to 18% per year. One of our biggest surprises for this restoration is that I previously expected the swans to spread into the prairie pothole country, but instead they have dispersed northward in the northern boreal lakes country characterized by spruce and tamarack forests and remote lakes surrounded by bog mats. That is exactly the kind of habitat where I collected the swan eggs in the 1980s.

Now we are dealing with how we switch from the re-establishment of this spectacular waterfowl species to a long term management strategy. This is a wildlife success that we can all enjoy and take pride in because the funding for this project came from the donations that Minnesota citizens made on the “line with the loon” on their state tax forms. Thanks to Collin Peterson for his vision to create the Nongame Wildlife Checkoff and for Minnesota’s generous citizens who have donated a few dollars each year at tax time to make our state a national leader in the conservation and management of our nongame wildlife resources.

NORTHERN SPRING PEEPER

Pseudacris crucifer

By Jeanine Ehnert



Spring peeper heralding spring.

A sign spring has arrived is the familiar sleigh bell like chorus of the spring peeper. The call of the spring peeper is heard in late March, early April into May. Males of the species vocalize in a loud chorus announcing spring is here. The peep or call is produced by pushing air out of sacs in their throat. Drawing in air and pushing out air to produce two clear notes. A distant chorus of peepers has been likened to the tinkling of bells. Sometimes the cacophony of sound is

almost deafening to the ears.

The spring peeper is a small well camouflaged brown or tan frog $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 inch wide in size with well-developed toe pads. The scientific name crucifer refers to the crucifix like X found on the frog's back. Spring peepers are amphibious, living part of their lives in water and part on land.

Spring peepers are found in woodland areas near the edge of ponds, swamps and marshes. They are found throughout the eastern United States and Canada. In Minnesota, they are found in the northern and eastern regions of the state. Recent surveys have indicated a decline in the population of these frogs.

They are nocturnal creatures hiding from predators during the day and feeding on small food items such as ants, flies, ticks and worms. Spring peepers are an important part of the

food web.

Female spring peepers lay eggs from March to June. The female will lay up to about 1000 eggs. The clumps or strings of eggs are attached to twigs and aquatic vegetation. Depending on the temperature the eggs will hatch into tadpoles within two or three days. After another two to three months young tadpoles are fully transformed into adult spring peepers.

As the days cool in the fall the spring peepers dig into soft mud near ponds for the winter to wait for spring to sing their familiar song.

Take time to enjoy nature and its many spring sights and sounds. Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge offers an abundant amount of wildlife and places to explore where you can hear peepers. Listen to the sounds of spring and enjoy the song of the spring peeper.

DISCOVERING THE "UNSPOILED" AT TAMARAC

By Jim Jasken ©

What is it with humans? We destroy what we love.

Who is it that doesn't love a river, a stream? A swath of water that moves, seeking something larger, ever heading toward the salt. Over-looking a stream is to view a still picture - with one eternal moving part.

The once-clear Red is muddy, development has ruined a thousand streams of trout, Michigan's polluted Detroit River caught fire in 1996. The Buffalo River suffers from farm waste, so too, the White Earth. Science often later proves what the eye has already seen.

In the name of something other than beauty, we have wrecked our moving waters. As equal opportunity wreckers, we may have given priority to the destroying the biggest first, but eventually we've nearly blighted all water that moves.

That's why, at mid-week, I sneak down into the ditch, and thread my way northeast. I thread my way a hundred yards or so, down this ten-thousand year grove of glacial run-off, now a mere thread of geography's blanket.

At a point, where the tiny rivulet at the bottom of this envelope pours toward the Ottetail, I sit. I first paused here thirty years ago while hunting grouse. It was then I found the source, a marsh, less than a mile from where I sit.

As I remain motionless, the stillness of the forest comes alive, but only slightly so. The birdly territorial declarations are distant. The subtle chortle of the brook's curve-around-the-boulder drowns out all timid sounds.

I know if I should tarry here, a deer might drink the trickle, a mink could pass while frogging, a fleeting falling maple leaf might join the flow and boat downstream. But for the moment, my mind simply drinks the unspoiled unspoiled creek, unencumbered, at least for now, by human hands.

ROSSMAN SCHOOL REFLECTIONS

Rossman School in Detroit Lakes has bussed children up to Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge to supplement their classroom teaching for several years. Here kindergarten teachers, Mrs. Paulson and Ms. Rak, and third grade teacher, Ms. Solberg share some of their students' impressions of Tamarac. Thanks go out to Tamarac volunteer, Justine Boots, for gathering their artwork and letters.

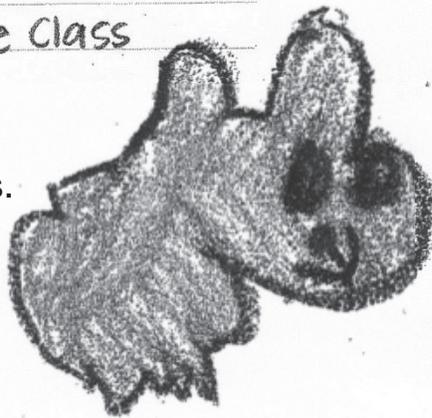
Dear Tamarac Volunteers,
My favorite part was snow shoeing with
Ben I had never gone snow shoeing before
and it was fun. Thank you volunteers for
helping out at Tamarac you helped a lot.
I thought the food web and learning
about adaptation was interesting.
The movie about deer was pretty
cool and GPSs too. I am glad
we got to go because I had fun and
a lot of the others that came had fun
too. Thank you so much!

Autumn Kulik
Ms. Solberg's 3rd Grade Class

Ben saw this friendly squirrel in a tree.



Olyvia says she likes bunnies.



Isaia says, "I like deer."



I like
Nateshere



By Dru, a Rossman
Kindergartner

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR FIRST INTERN

Jayne Dittmar



Jayne Dittmar leads a new educational activity.

I set out this morning to save the world with some pictures of animals, five hula hoops, two balls of yarn and several bandanas. These were my tools to coach 90 children in the ways of ecosystem balance.

Over the course of four weeks I have spent hours chasing around kids in snow pants, capturing opportune moments of children immersed in wilderness on a video camera, interviewing and creating environmental education programs. When you empty yourself so much into any mission, especially one committed to making a difference, it can be draining. I am exhausted. Though it is a kind of tired that gives back – a kind of tired that is good for us. And being surrounded by the Friends of Tamarac is invigorating.

Your passion for this place and creating the next generation of conservation stewards is infectious. It is contagious to me, to the teachers, to the guys in the brown pants and patches working in their offices, but most importantly to the students that visit.

This generation of youth is ready and willing to step outside. (If a group of 100 third graders have an incredible time running around in the forests of Tamarac in -10 degrees Fahrenheit doesn't say this, I don't know what does). In a

world battling overconsumption, urban sprawl, exponential population growth and consequences of climate change, it is pertinent that children get their shoes muddy, that they enjoy wildlife and wild places and realize their insurmountable benefits. If only there were more organizations like the Friends of Tamarac that gave them opportunities to do so.

Your dedication and passion in creating conservation leaders of tomorrow is noticeably brilliant. You impact the students visiting Tamarac on a school bus, the children coming with their families to festivals and events, and the older ones, like recent graduates from the U of M you provide career building opportunities in order to build a resume to obtain a career giving back to natural

places.

Several observations of passion I have witnessed over these four weeks include Rick as Mr. Fox, Connie singing with children about beavers, Nancy B. instructing on cumulus clouds, Dave hiking for miles on snowshoes, Ron getting children excited about wildlife tracks, Vonnie jumping in wherever she could, Nancy's readiness behind the front desk, Del's saviness in the tech room, Jeanine hopping like a rabbit and many others.

Your passion is the engine to the machine; it is the driving force that gives you power. It provides opportunities to progress forward. It engages people that might only have a modest interest in your cause. In the end I believe your passion is going to be the building blocks for a new Discovery Center. This wouldn't just be a facility for fostering stewardship in children, but also in community.

Friends of Tamarac, thank you for this opportunity. It has been a privilege serving you again as part of the Tamarac team. In the end I hope I have contributed as much to your success as I was able to take away from this internship. I am leaving soon for Gunnison National Park in Colorado and then to Denali in Alaska, more prepared in the ways of environmental education and committed to a career in conservation.

VOLUNTEERVIBES

by Janice Bengston

Spring arrived early this year! We are looking forward to a very busy and challenging season here on the refuge and hopefully you will be part of it. Here's what is coming up:

- **Wanted: Environmental Educators** - If you enjoy interacting with children, we will be super busy with school programs in May. Why not join our great team? There will be opportunities to shadow, assist and lead programs. **Wildlife Excursion Guides** – Lead visitors on an adventure through the refuge. Tours are offered Thursdays, June through August. **Gift Shop Manager** – A retail sales background and knowledge of Point of Sale software desired. **Wild Wednesdays Activity Leaders** (July-August 10:00 am) - Lead a one hour nature activity for 3-7 year olds accompanied by parents or grandparents. **Photo contest committee members**-assist with the organization of entries, set up at Fall Festival, the mall and attend planning meetings, etc. Must

be detail oriented.

- **Bonnie and Jerry Compton** will be our resident volunteers for the first half of the season. They are coming from the sunshine state of Florida. They have traveled the country for over 20 years. Since their volunteer experiences have been with state and national parks, the Comptons are excited about their new adventure with the Fish and Wildlife Service. Pat and Ward New will be our resident volunteers for the second half of the season. They are from Suches, Georgia. Both are retired science teachers and are seasoned volunteers having worked at 3 refuges and a historical park. We are excited they can stay into the fall to assist with the Fall Festival and school programs. They will be here through October or until the snow flies!

- **Kudos to all of you!** We received the



Retired science teachers Pat and Ward New from Suches, Georgia will be volunteering at Tamarac from August to mid-October.

draft Visitor Survey which was conducted October 2010 and June 2011. Here are a couple of comments: The visitor center volunteers were very knowledgeable and helpful. Great volunteers for our educational trip for kindergarteners.

- The hours requirement for receiving a Volunteer Interagency Recreation Pass has been changed from 500 hours to 250 hours. This pass allows for entrance into all federal areas that charge an entrance fee including national parks and refuges. It also gives you half price on camping and is good for a year. These are awarded at our recognition picnic in August.

NATIONAL TRAIL COMES THROUGH TAMARAC

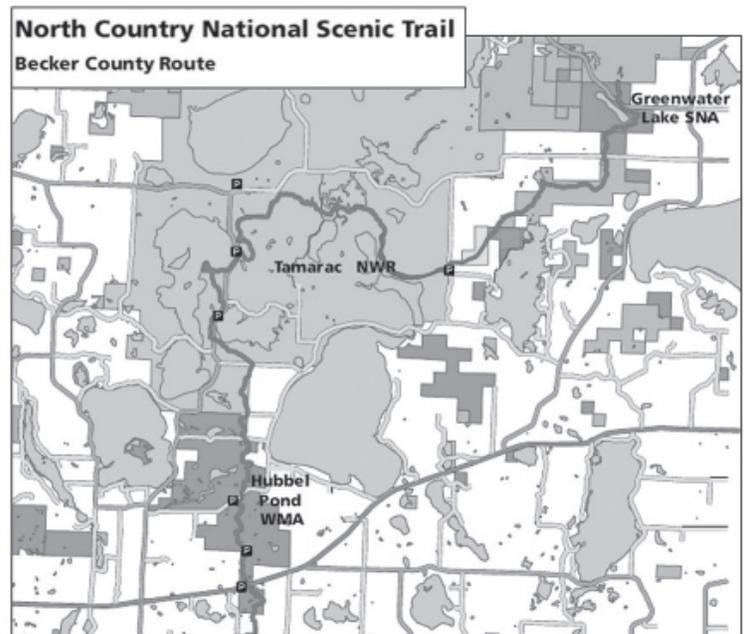
By Matthew Davis, MN / ND Regional Trail Coordinator for the North Country Trail Association and Friends of Tamarac member

You've no doubt heard by now that the nation's longest hiking trail is on its way to Tamarac. Well, to be completely honest, Tamarac has been on the North Country Trail's route since 1982. The exciting news is that we'll finally be putting the trail in on the ground this year! Thanks to a 2010 Legacy Trail grant obtained by Becker County on behalf of the North Country Trail Association's Laurentian Lakes Chapter, crews from the Conservation Corps of Minnesota will be working alongside the Chapter volunteers in building the trail this spring and summer.

The North Country Trail is a simple footpath consisting of an 18-24" smooth, native soil treadway within a 4' x 8' cleared corridor. Construction of the trail will be completed by hand using hand tools and limited power equipment (e.g. DR Brush Mower, chainsaw, leaf blower). This national trail is designed to provide an "outstanding outdoor recreation experience" in areas with superb scenery. We are confident that the trail segment within Tamarac will do just that because it offers a great diversity of habitats within highly scenic areas. Below is a map showing the trail's route.

All together, the North Country Trail across Tamarac will be almost 15 miles in length. Since there is no camping allowed within the Refuge, the Laurentian Lakes Chapter will be developing a backcountry campsite on either end of the Refuge and designating a roadwalk through the refuge for long-distance hikers who cannot hike all the way through in a single day. We are very grateful for the partnership that we

have with the staff at Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge.





TODD LUKE

BY VONNIE JACOBSON

Todd Luke, assistant manager of the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge, is leaving Tamarac this spring to become the manager of the Windom Wetland Management District in southern Minnesota. He leaves with a great affection for Tamarac, which he terms a jewel of the National Wildlife Refuge System. It is a devastating departure from a place with an endearing unique convergence of northern hardwood, coniferous forests, and tall grass prairie that grabs your heart and soul. The abundance of migratory and resident birds, particularly water fowl has been Tamarac's pride and joy for Todd. Diversity of weather, habitat, and wildlife has made the refuge a great place to work. Law enforcement has been an important part of his work at Tamarac, providing not only the ability to protect the resource in a different way, but more importantly the expanded opportunity to engage and educate visitors in person as they enjoy the landscape. One of the wonderful aspects of Tamarac is encountering different things every day and working as a team to face and solve challenges. For Todd, interfacing with the public has been of great interest in many areas including serving as the refuge's liaison with White Earth. The Tribe's

cultural aspects and commonality with natural resources have made for a good working relationship.

Todd's interest in the environment began early with his fishing, hunting, and camping family, real camping,

with a tent. He became a young bird watcher and constructed so many bird feeders his family's yard boasted the most in his hometown. His primary interest has been waterfowl and prairie wetlands and this is the center of his new job. Todd is excited about the different challenges that the Windom Wetland District with its prairie wetlands and waterfowl will present. Geographically it covers 12 counties in southwest Minnesota. Strategic land acquisition for habitat conservation and waterfowl production will be the center point of his job. Windom has a staff of 10 including a park ranger and a recently built headquarters and visitor center. They also have a Friends of Windom WMD group.

Todd states that working with the Friends of Tamarac has been a heartwarming experience. He has been impressed with the Friends evolving from a gift shop group to a force and refuge partner. He will miss working with them. He is particularly enthused and excited with the planned Discovery Center, and is confident that the Friends will build the structure. He believes it will become a highly regarded prominent asset in Becker County. Friends of Tamarac

will greatly miss his friendly face and words of wisdom.

Neil Powers, Tamarac's refuge manager, states that Todd is going to be sorely missed. He has been the one constant component with three successive refuge managers from Jay to Barbara and now to Neil. They will be losing a core deputy with a possibility of the position left vacant for an extended period. The best that we can have is other staff members filling that hole by taking on a portion of Todd's duties.



The Friends of Tamarac made sure Todd would be well dressed at his new location with a Tamarac vest.

CELEBRATING THE TRUMPETER!

By Tom Hunt

The Bird Festival will be held May 17th-20th. The staff at Tamarac Refuge and the Friends group play huge roles in the success of the festival. All throughout the festival, a great number of members will be doing volunteer work with registration, handling the gift shop at the college, transporting signs, cleaning up and returning items used for the festival. We have two major events scheduled at Tamarac, Thursday and Saturday.

Thursday is an exciting and busy day for Tamarac and the Friends of Tamarac. We start with birding in the field at 1:00 p.m., then golden winged warbler workshop at 3:30. Meanwhile Friends will be preparing the supper to be served at 5:30 followed by Carrol Henderson's program on "Celebrating Swans." Tamarac's Kyle Daly will present his program on dance of the woodcock at 7:30. This will be an outstanding experience and a very informational day, all at the refuge.

Saturday will bring John Marzloff's program on birds in the crow family and their interesting behavior, along with a great selection of workshops and tours. As usual, Saturday will be a busy day for the Friends. We will have a great selection of books and wares at the Birders Bazaar, and we will be providing a hot breakfast for the birders who sign up to breakfast with the swans.

This is the 25th anniversary of the release of trumpeter swans at Tamarac NWR. To celebrate its success, this elegant bird was selected as the theme for the festival in May. Selection of the swan has a personal meaning for me because of my father, Robley Hunt. Many of you know that he was Refuge Manager at Tamarac in the late 50s to mid 60s. Later, he worked at Hennepin County Park Reserve, assisting with the project of raising the swans to be transported to other refuges and reserves for release to the wild. In fact, I recently learned that he was a charter member of the



Bring a friend and share the joys of birds and nature at the Detroit Lakes Festival of Birds.

Trumpeter Swan Society when it formed in 1969. I cannot say that any of the swans he helped raise went to Carlos Avery Refuge-and maybe eventually to Tamarac. But

I do know he would be extremely pleased to see the success shown by the increasing number of swans at Tamarac.

15th Annual
Festival of Birds

May 17-20, 2012
Detroit Lakes, Minnesota






1-800-542-3992 • www.VisitDetroitLakes.com

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Thursday May 17 – May 20, Detroit Lakes Festival of Birds

Join us in this community event for some great workshops, field trips and speakers. Events at Tamarac include a Beginning Birding workshop at 1:00 followed by a Golden-winged Warbler workshop at 3:30. Thursday's evening's presentation is Celebrating Swans by Carrol Henderson, followed by a sumptuous dinner prepared by the Friends of Tamarac. Then join graduate student Kyle Daly for Dance of the Woodcock from 7:30 -10:00 pm. The field trip to Tamarac is on Saturday May 19 from 5:30 -11:30 am.

Visit www.visitdetroitlakes.com for more information.

*Wildlife Excursions will be offered every Thursday from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm June through August. Explore the refuge with a knowledgeable guide. Search for wildlife and learn about the cultural and natural history of Tamarac.

Saturday June 2, 10:00 am-12:00 pm Celebrate National Trails Day!

Let's go exploring on the Old Indian Hiking Trail. Identify woodland

wildflowers and discover their native uses. Meet at the trail head for this family friendly two mile hike.

Sunday June 3 Movie 2:00 pm Great Migrations – Race to Survive

Travel to Botswana where hundreds of zebras make a desperate 150 mile long slog so their bodies can take in much needed minerals. Take in the heartbreaking struggle of Pacific walrus that have become victims of earth's changing climate. Witness a herd of pronghorn antelope and follow its ancient migration through Wyoming. (55 min.) Shown in the Visitor Center theater.

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

Identify frogs by their calls while learning about their natural history and significance in the ecosystem. Meet at the visitor center. Bring a flashlight and boots or shoes you can get wet.

Sunday June 10 Movie 2:00 pm Pollen Nation

Follow the journey of a commercial bee keeper from the honey harvest on the high plains to the warm winter feeding grounds of California. Learn why honeybees and numerous species



When's the last time you chased a butterfly or dragonfly? Get back into nature and join expert John Weber in the field.

of native bees are in serious decline and how it's affecting our dinner table and that of wildlife. 25 min. Held in the Visitor Center theater.

Sunday June 17, 2:00 pm Butterfly Kisses and Wetland Jewels

Join John Weber for an intriguing look into the world of butterflies and dragonflies. Enjoy beautiful photography along with a site visit to see these critters in the wild. Learn about their fascinating lifestyles and their significance in the balance of nature. Meet at the Visitor Center.

*Wild Wednesdays! Programs will be offered every Wednesday at 10:00 am July through August. Explore the world of nature with your child or grandchild during this hour long adventure. Activities designed for 3-7 year olds. Call for meeting locations (218/847-2641).

Sunday July 15, 2:00 pm The Scoop on Poop!

For kids of all ages! We may not see all the critters we want, but they leave plenty behind. Discover the wonders of scat. You'll even get to create your own animal scat to take home. Meet at Chippewa Picnic Area for this odd adventure.



**Join Park Ranger
Kelly Blackledge
for another fun
night of frogging
on Friday, June 8,
from 8-10 p.m.**

**NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS
OF TAMARAC NWR**

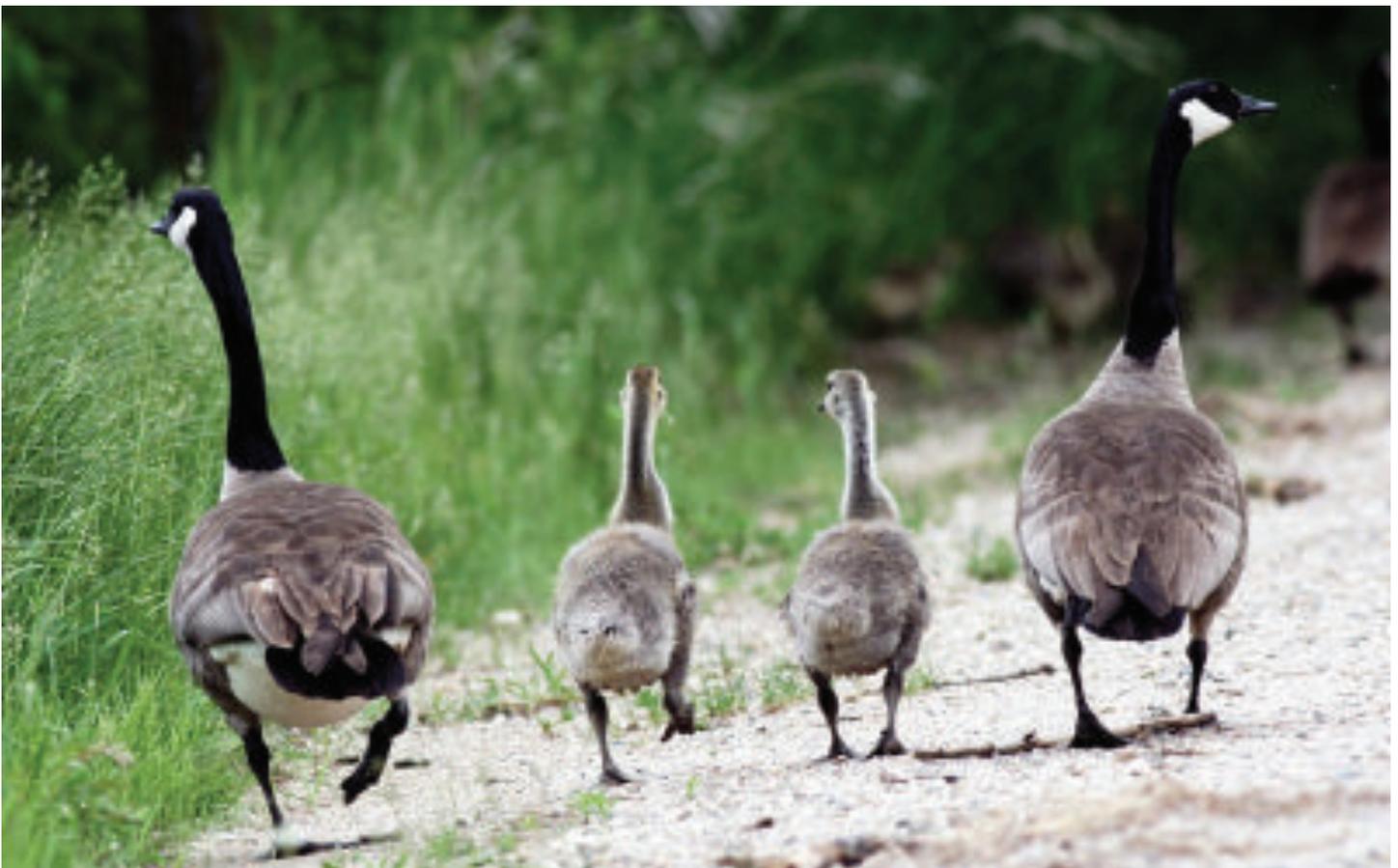
Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge
35704 County Highway 26
Rochert, MN 56578
www.tamaracfriends.org
Phone: 218-847-2641 Ext. 21

*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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“March of the Geese” Photo by Chelsea Henderson.