



SPRING 2013

TAMARAC TRACKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF TAMARAC NWR

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JACK'S FIRST TRIP TO TAMARAC

By Don Blanding, President of the Board

Jack first experienced Tamarac hiking with his parents on the Flat Lake Trail last Labor Day weekend. He was 4 months old. Note the one-of-a-kind perambulator. Dad secured his car seat to the ever popular deer cart. (Jack's uncle Doug bought the cart after he dragged an eight point buck about one mile down the same trail with only a rope over his shoulder.)

Jack and his five cousins are indeed fortunate. They not only have easy access to Tamarac, but also he has parents anxious to bring them there. Our grand kids are learning all sorts of things about the great outdoors. They are forming healthy habits for their lifetime. They are rowing boats, paddling canoes, discovering snakes and frogs, watching dragonflies hatch, collecting morels and wild raspberries, hiking in the woods, fishing in summer and winter, and other similar activities. We are most thankful that they are growing up with all of these experiences.

Not all children are blessed this way. At only ten months old, if we put a cartoon on the television, Jack is mesmerized. Just ten months! Author Stephen King calls the television the "glass teat," perhaps a crude but very telling analogy. One time professional friend and coworker, psychologist Dr. Dave Walsh, founded a not-for-profit organization called The National Institute on Media and the Family. Dave has written for the Washington Post and the Los Angeles Times. He has appeared on ABC's 20/20 and NBC's Today Show. He has authored ten books. He focuses

primarily on the impact of the media on children, where his message might be best summarized as: Be careful. This is not only time consuming and addictive, it can be harmful. Dave's lectures with his studies, statistics, and observations are absolutely eye opening. That much of his work is ten years old makes Dave somewhat of a prophet. Consider the ubiquitous nature of electronic devices today and how this issue has clearly become exacerbated. Kids really do need to turn off these devices and turn on to the outdoors. At one deer camp with which I am familiar, all such devices are confiscated while hunting. Great idea.

Here's the really good news. The Friends of Tamarac volunteers and staff provide any number of such outdoor experiences for any child who can get to Tamarac. It gets better. In kindergarten and again in third grade, nearly all neighboring schools participate in a Tamarac program whereby these youngsters are bused to Tamarac for a state approved curriculum in environmental education. Research has shown that reaching these lower grade levels are key for developing this outdoor knowledge and experience. The Friends, many of whom are retired educators, volunteer literally thousands of hours every year to support this program. A quick trip to the Friends of Tamarac website is a great place to see and learn more about all of this. Better yet, call the refuge and plan a visit when these classes are in session. You will be impressed. We are currently planning to provide more capacity in order to accommodate more school districts interested in the program. More on that at a later date.



As with many of our friends, I grew up in Detroit Lakes. I remember when we got our first television, but certainly no specific programs or episodes. But I vividly remember shooting my first ruffed grouse, first time spear fishing, and bicycle outings where Mom made sandwiches and I was gone for the day with my buddies on wooded trails. The Friends and staff at Tamarac provide similar opportunities for thousands of kids every year. On one such outing of special needs kids, a little girl tugged on a Friend's hand and said "Mr. Ron, I've never been in the woods before."

Kind of makes it all worthwhile, don't you think?



Become a Friend

Membership: \$20

Patron: \$100

Steward: \$250

Life Member: \$500



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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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).

TAMARAC NWR, THE NEXT 75 YEARS OF CONSERVATION....

By Neil Powers, Tamarac Refuge Manager



As we celebrate the establishment of Tamarac NWR in the months ahead, it seems appropriate to pause momentarily to reflect upon the past and those early accomplishments that provided a solid foundation for the refuge to grow. Some may argue that those early years were easier and less complicated; however, my sense is that they were no less complicated or challenging than those we face today. Issues like recovering decimated and declining wildlife populations and restoring and improving habitats were at the forefront

for these early managers. Times have changed for sure, and our worries about beaver, wood duck and Canada goose populations have subsided, but clearly the mission of the refuge to provide healthy wildlife habitats for the enjoyment of people has been a constant since the beginning.

So what does the next 75 years hold for Tamarac? Undoubtedly, we will continue to face uncertainty at a local, regional or even global scale. The threat of aquatic invasive species has the potential to permanently alter native habitats and potentially disrupt the balance of entire ecosystems. On a grander scale, the impacts of global warming are still being debated. Will the refuge and surrounding lands become hotter and drier or hotter and wetter? Either scenario will significantly influence current habitats and the diversity of wildlife that the refuge can support.

The challenges are many but the future will also be filled with times of great prosperity and opportunities for growth.

Our work across the refuge to restore and manage habitats is just one example of our effort to sustain resilient and healthy habitats capable of absorbing future threats. The refuge is also well positioned to support the education needs of school children who represent our future leaders. Fortunately for all of us, these education opportunities will have instilled an appreciation for wild things and wild places.

Most important to the future of Tamarac are people. The refuge relies upon our friendships, partnerships and the support of individuals like you at many levels and in many forms, to accomplish our mission. These relationships form the backbone of our existence and entwine themselves with nearly every aspect of the refuge. Ironically, it was the charismatic dedication of people that established the refuge seventy-five years ago, and it will take this same dedication and persistence by future generations to preserve special places like Tamarac NWR.

NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Thanks so much to the many Friends of Tamarac who have renewed their memberships for the coming year and a big WELCOME to all our new members. Membership runs from October 1 through September 30 each year. The following is a list of new and renewed memberships received since the January newsletter through February 15, 2013.

NEW LIFETIME MEMBER

Jerry Fredine

PATRONS

Damien Society
Bradley and Janet Green
Les and Nancy Brennan

MEMBERSHIP

Larry and Becky Aarestad
Mary Aasness
Peggy Aquirre
Robert and Lori Bachmann
Bob and Lynda Backman
Art and Arlene Bakker

Ron and Vicki Beaton
Janice Bengtson
Del Bergseth
Ruth Bergquist
Bruce and Jane Besse
Mark and Barb Beug
Dennis and Sherry Capistran
Jarrod and Darlene Christen
Fred Daggett
Chris and Mary Daly
Tom and Cathy Fritz
Deb Haverkamp
Tom and Linda Hunt
Mark and Sue Geihl
David and Juneve Givers

Rick and Sandra Hollbrook
Heather Hundt and Shawn Goodchild
Edward Janzen
Judy Johnson
Walter Johnson
Mike Kennedy
Jamie and Darcy Klein
Matthew and Lindilou Kulzer
Craig Lewis
Dennis and Joanne McCarl
Rick Pechmann
Tim and Sue Sigurdson Powers
Dick and Claire Wilson
Ray and Lynette Vlasak

TAMARAC TURNS 75!

by Janice Bengtson

In 1903, Pelican Island, the first national wildlife refuge, was established in response to market hunting of pelicans and other wading birds in Florida. It wasn't long before other refuges were established to protect wildlife and their habitats. During the Depression of the 30's, local conservationists began to realize that people were not the only ones suffering hardship. Because much of the land had been logged extensively, wildlife had been nearly decimated. After suffering years of drought, they rallied in support of waterfowl and other wildlife through habitat restoration.

One such conservationist was Emil Frank, proudly referred to as the "father of Tamarac." He was a local game warden who had "intimate knowledge" of the area and who originally drew up the boundaries for the refuge. Nationally, with a Duck Stamp program to raise funds, seed money from Congress and the establishment of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the FWS was able to begin a "crusade" to restore this wetland home.

".....to bring back as near as possible, at



Members of Homer Sergeant's private hunting club near Tamarac Lake. Sergeant was the general manager of The Northern Pacific Railroad from 1879-188

least in this area those same abundant conditions of nature as they existed before the advent of civilization."

These are the words of John N. Bruce, Assistant Civil Engineer in charge of the initial development of Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge. It was in June of 1937, when a Civilian Conservation Corp camp was established and "Tamarac BF-2 was alive with action." One year later on June 2, 1938, President Roosevelt proclaimed the establishment of Tamarac Migratory Waterfowl Refuge. Up until 1941, the northern half of the proposed refuge made great strides in development, which included patrol roads, trails, bridges, buildings, fire towers, water control structures, and habitat improvements. These improvements included the construction of 800 wood duck boxes!

The southern half of the proposed refuge was still in private ownership consisting mostly of holdings belonging to hunting clubs and individual hunters. The controversy over obtaining these lands would last over twenty years and would include many interesting key players.

World War II and the passage of the "governor's consent" law put a long hold on any further land acquisition. This law, which prevented the federal government from acquiring land within the southern half of the proposed boundaries, was introduced by Senator A. O. Sletvold of Detroit



The CCC camp was located south of the Chippewa picnic area.

Lakes who was said to be employed by the "Rice Lake Syndicate," referring to a private hunting club(s). Obviously, there was a lot of political maneuvering going on due to pressure from special interest groups, much as it occurs in today's political arena.

In 1954, the future looked brighter thanks to State Senator Norman Walz and State Representative Harry Basford. They introduced a bill which would rescind the governor's consent law. The gun clubs were caught off guard while the bill passed quietly without fanfare. Needless to say, they were very upset. But there was yet another stumbling block in the road for refuge supporters. Under a treaty with Canada, the Migratory Bird Commission was required to approve all land acquisitions for migratory bird refuges. At this time, the commission did not consent to the proposed land acquisitions. It wasn't until the death of an "influenced" Minnesota commission member and at the urging of Minnesota congresswoman Coya Knutson, that the MBC finally "ordered completion of the refuge." This was in 1958. Gun clubs retaliated stating that the refuge was "not a duck producer, was being mismanaged, and that there would be a great loss in tax revenue." They pressured government leaders into deciding that the land was only to be acquired if the

owner requested the government buy them out.

During these years, U.S. Attorney, C. U. Landrum, a local supporter of the refuge, kept in close contact with Senator Hubert H. Humphrey and other democrats in Washington. He was assured by Humphrey that the acquisition of land would take place and if necessary through condemnation. The ball finally got rolling when the Kennedy Administration took over. It was on June 14, 1961 that the Regional Director of the FWS advised their realty officers to start negotiations with the gun clubs and other landowners. Several cases ended up in federal court. Finally, in 1964 all private lands were acquired. In 1965, all other land acquisitions (county and state) were completed.

As we enjoy the beauty and wildlife of Tamarac today, we must reflect back on those people who made this refuge a reality. It wasn't just the "movers and shakers" of state and federal government. It was citizens like you and me who made a difference because of their strong beliefs and perseverance. It was people like Emil Frank, a local game warden, and Otto Kalhe, a member of the Becker County Sportsman's Club – one of the few local businessmen to publicly support the refuge no matter the consequences. It was people like F. C. Schraeder, who dedicated hours writing detailed reports in support of the refuge to local and regional newspapers and politicians. Thanks to these key people from our past, Tamarac NWR is and will continue to be a special place for generations of all life to come

The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service is upholding a promise made by Teddy Roosevelt long ago. It is the promise to "preserve wildlife and habitat for its own sake and benefit of the American people." We, the American people, can support our refuge system so that this legacy for wildlife can and will continue.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS OF SEQUESTRATION

by Nancy Moulden

As time goes by, I was hoping this article would not have to be written because one morning I would wake to find that Congress had worked together and enacted a budget, with a mixture of revenue and sensible cuts that would meet the needs of the people. Unfortunately, it looks like this is not going to happen and sequestration is gradually going into effect.

Due to lack of funds, some refuges will need to reduce hours of operation, shorten seasons and close areas to protect employees, visitors and resources. The sequester will cause programs in approximately 256 refuges to be discontinued, limit the number of seasonal employees needed for firefighting, law enforcement and visitor services, as well as eliminate nearly 400 management jobs. Importantly, the manpower from 42,000 volunteers, who provide 20% of the work in national wildlife refuges, will also be impaired with fewer employees available to guide them.

These losses to our refuges will be felt in the surrounding communities as well since refuges are economic engines which return \$8 in economic activity for every \$1 appropriated to them.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. Call your U.S. Representative and Senators by calling the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121 and the White House at 202-456-1111 .
2. Follow it up by sending an EMAIL to your U.S. Representative and Senators, go to <http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml> for their contact information. To email the President go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/submit-questions-and-comments>.

Naturalist Notes

by Craig Lewis, MN Master Naturalist Instructor

Tamarac Refuge and the Friends of Tamarac have always had an involvement in natural history and interpretation. This has evolved in the last years with several members of the Friends of Tamarac having completed special training through the University of Minnesota and Minnesota DNR's Master Naturalist program. This year we have five Minnesota Master Naturalist trained members and one person who is scheduled to do the training this summer. We are involved in environmental education, field interpretation, visitor nature and biome education, citizen science projects, and other activities. Today, the group is known as the "Tamarac Naturalists," and this spring we are offering the first Minnesota Master Naturalist Training Course in Becker County starting June 11 and going two days a week for 2.5 hours each day until June 23 (11 sessions). It also includes two full day field trips to experience areas pertinent to our biomes in Tamarac and Becker County. Persons completing all 11 sessions will be graduated



as new Minnesota Master Naturalists trained in the Big Woods, Big Rivers Biome. For more information contact: Craig Lewis, uscg4fun@gmail.com. Our other major long-term undertaking is the Project Noah citizen science program at Tamarac Refuge. This is a program to document and verify native and non-native plants, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and other natural subjects in consort with other National Geographic observers around the world. It is an online science project that anyone in the public can become involved in and be a part of our special mission at Tamarac Refuge. For more information on this program, contact Denis Mudderman, tamaracweb@yahoo.com. To keep up on Tamarac Naturalist events and happenings this season, log on to our Tamarac Naturalist webpage at: www.tamaracnaturalist.blogspot.com.

MAKE ROOM FOR ~~DADDY~~ KIDS!

By Rick Pechmann

There are a few of us who remember the popular 1953 television show “Make Room for Daddy.” Danny Thomas was constantly seeking attention from his family trying to be noticed. Such is life in the fast lane. The Friends of Tamarac often find themselves in the fast lane, busy with their many endeavors. Well now it is time to “Make Room for KIDS.” Many KIDS!

The Tamarac Wildlife Refuge Staff and the Friends of Tamarac Environmental Education Committee host kids (students) from surrounding school districts throughout the school year and during the summer months. Spending a day at Tamarac is awesome. Environmental education is best accomplished with the students going out into nature, exploring, hiking, gathering information (data), and then returning to a resource facility to complete their data. But even on those truly ideal Minnesota days we need a break from the sun, not to mention the need for bathroom facilities. Nature provides the natural classroom; it has its challenges like freezing temps, snow, rain, sunshine, and wind. The Tamarac Wildlife Refuge is in dire need of such a facility. A central location is needed to provide a meeting place, a refuge from

nature’s elements, classroom space, lab areas, an outdoor amphitheater, lunchroom (dining) space, and bathroom facilities.

Students and teachers who spend an entire day at Tamarac can explore what nature has to teach and then return to process/record their information/data. This space will provide a place to have lunch, areas for story telling, and labs for experiments. The center will provide a refuge from challenging weather conditions, bathroom facilities, classroom space, a lunchroom that is not in the Visitor Center’s hallway/gift shop nor in the garage, which is reserved for the maintenance of vehicles. It will allow school groups the opportunity to spend the entire day at Tamarac, and this experience will not be limited because there is a lack of restroom facilities and a space to have lunch.

Just as we have fond memories of “Make Room for Daddy,” let’s create new memories for our kids (students) and the next generations with “Making Room for Kids.”

Our Vision...

A PATH TO DISCOVERY

Watch your mail for more information on the Discovery Center project. The Friends of Tamarac are passionate about creating more opportunities for the youth and families of our local communities to make meaningful connections with nature. This project will provide the path to discoveries in the outdoors.

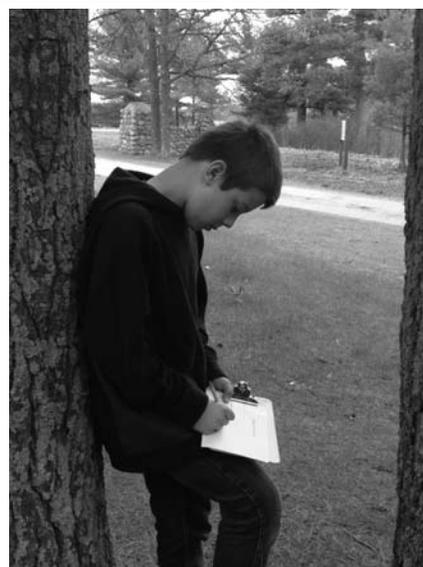


“In the end, we conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught.” - *Baba Dioum, Senegalese poet*

“If a child is to keep his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in.” - *Rachel Carson*



“Let Nature be your teacher.”
- William Wordsworth



“I put new eyes on this morning so I could really see Tamarac.”

- Perham 2nd grade student to volunteer educator, Nancy Brennan, October 11, 2011

“Wisdom begins with wonder.”
- *Socrates*

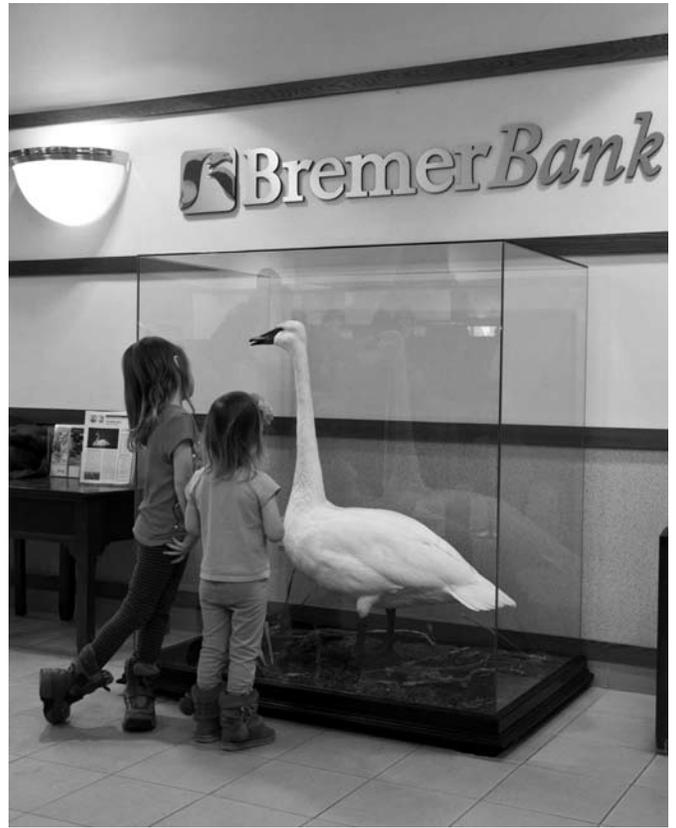
Banking on a Place for the Swan

By Jim Sinclair

Bremer Bank in Detroit Lakes has a temporary visitor in the lobby, a beautiful Trumpeter Swan. The Tamarac Refuge Visitor Center is still in the process of a retrofit to make it more energy efficient and will remain closed to visitors for the summer. In the interim, the Refuge was scheduled to receive a new Trumpeter Swan mount. With no place to display the animal, Bremer Bank was asked if they would be willing to display it until the visitor center is completed. They were very happy to accommodate the request. The bank employees instantly bonded with the new addition and named it Cyg, short for its real name, *Cygnus buccinator*. Clients have been thrilled to be able to see a real Trumpeter Swan up close. It gives the bank tellers a great new ice breaker with their clients. They enjoy telling the story and giving interesting facts about the majestic bird.

The huge swan was beautifully mounted by Jerry Froelich of Flyway Taxidermy. Jerry worked with the staff to create a special experience for viewers. When people walk up to the swan they can feel how big these birds really are by sizing up the height of the swan's eyes to their own. It is in a glass case that is five feet tall and looks as though it's ready to trumpet.

The two young ladies in the photo are Isla and Greta Pender, daughters of Detroit Lakes Community Business Banker, Mason Pender. The display will also be a great way for the Friends of Tamarac to educate the public about our efforts to build a new Discovery Education Center near the Refuge Visitor Center. Thanks to Bremer Bank for engaging in unique ways of helping Tamarac and our community!



ENERGY RETROFIT ON SCHEDULE

by Kelly Blackledge

The Tamarac Visitor Center and Headquarters was selected as one of the federal buildings to be renovated to meet the current Energy Policy Act requirements of 7.5% of the energy consumed by a facility to be renewable energy. Contractors have been busy over the past several months. Maybe you have seen the new well-insulated green metal roof? The building is now super-insulated with low-e glass windows and insulated thermal break doors. Soon the geothermal well system will be drilled, and this summer the solar panels will be added to the large sloped roof. This project will eliminate the fossil fuel usage of the building for heating. There still much work to do on the interior and exterior of the building, which will include more accessible restrooms and doorways. We expect to see the building completed in September.



THERESA HANEY

By Vonnie Jacobson



As we enter this spring season of renewal and new growth, we pause to fondly remember one of our own that has passed from this world. Theresa Haney was a wonderful friend of Tamarac NWR; she served as a volunteer and was a board member of Friends of Tamarac for many years. Aided by her husband Jim and daughter Mary, she devoted countless hours to the betterment of this organization and the refuge. Her experience of service and education made her a most valuable asset for Friends of Tamarac. Theresa was a dedicated educator, and she was particularly pleased and proud of the environmental education programs offered at Tamarac. She was a mother and outdoors woman who would not hesitate to pull her children out of the classroom to have an experience outside. Cross country skiing was a favorite activity, and she always enjoyed the flora and fauna on their piece of Minnesota countryside. As a lifelong educator, teaching and interacting with young people was her joy. She was on the original faculty at the then Northwest Technical School; she served on the board of directors of St. Mary's Hospital and on the board of St. Mary's Foundation; she established the parish nurse program at Holy Rosary Church. Theresa was the recipient of many awards and accolades for her outstanding work in nursing. She will be missed.



Photo by Dominique Braud

WOODLAND REAL ESTATE

By James Jasken ©

I spied a grouse in my woods today,
Arrogant, cocky bird,
Perched on his oak thumping log
Where often his thunders I've
heard.

He may be preparing for ritual, I
thought
(He looked poised and ready to
drum),
I froze like a court yard sculpture,

Eager for booming to come!

But he turned his head, ignoring me
And smashed the aspen air,
Vanishing into the shadowy growth
Toward a less-infested lair.

Though I know who pays the taxes
And think the land I own,
It seems that I'm the trespasser
Of his north country boreal zone.

VOLUNTEER VIBES

After a long white winter, I am looking forward to the green of spring and seeing YOU! This season will be a challenging one as we will be limited in staff due to the budget shortfall. We are depending on you to assist us in continuing our mission of “working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitat for the continuing benefit of the American people.”

Here's the latest news and upcoming events:

It's time to step up to the plate! **Spring Training** (formally known as Orientation) is scheduled for Thursday **May 2** from 9:00 am- 2:30 pm. I encourage all of you to attend. Our staff will be available with projects and activities they need assistance with. We want you to discover your happy 'niche' here at Tamarac. Like previous years, lunch will be provided.

Let's celebrate **Earth Day on Friday, May 3**. Come out for our **Annual Clean-up Day**. Lend a hand as we prepare to welcome spring and summer visitors. Wear clothes you can get dirty. We'll start working at 8:30 am. Lunch will be provided. There will be refuge litter routes to cover as well as other projects to tackle.

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 3-6 year olds accompanied by parents or grandparents. **Wildlife Surveyors** - Good Birders with GPS skills, assist with the Breeding Bird Atlas. This project documents all breeding birds in MN. There are 3 blocks on the refuge to explore and document bird sightings. Spring surveys include frog and toad surveys, ruffed grouse, bald eagle nest surveys. Trumpeter swan and loon surveys are conducted in June and July. Volunteers are needed to staff the Festival of Birds which is May 17-19. We need folks to

register guests, set up, tear down, host the book signing event, staff the Friends gift shop booth and more.

We also need help in planning, setting up, and hosting the National Trails Day Event (May 31 and June 1). If you are interested in history, I am looking for someone to do some research and write a couple of articles about the refuge in celebration of our **75th Anniversary**. These articles would be included in the local newspapers as part of a series and in the FOT newsletter.

Want to spend time outside? Why not join our maintenance team! We need help mowing and maintaining our public accesses and interpretive sites. Must be available on a regular basis throughout the season. We also need **Aquatic Invasive Species Educators**. You would work in teams at our lake accesses rotating on weekends. Keep in mind the **Fall Festival** which is October 5. We will need help in planning and staffing this event which will celebrate our 75th Anniversary. Please contact me if you are interested in any of these positions and spread the word to your friends! (Janice at 218-847-2641 ext 16 or Janice_Bengtson@fws.gov)

There are two great volunteer training opportunities coming up! **Teaching in the Outdoor Classroom** will be offered July 15-18 at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center in Fergus Falls. This workshop is great for those who work within our Environmental Education program. You must register by June 14. There is only a \$25.00 deposit to keep your place. Free housing is available if needed! Go to www.friendsof-prairiewetlands.com for more information. You must hurry as only a few slots are left! **A Master Naturalist** class focusing on the Big Woods, Big Rivers biome will be offered beginning June 11; two days a week for 6 weeks. Here's your chance to enhance your knowledge and skills as a volunteer whether you are teaching children, leading a tour or working in the field. It is a great program! Several volunteers have taken at least one of the courses (3 are offered) and say it's definitely worth it. The class will meet at the Ecumen Emmanuel Center in DL. There will be several field trips involved. The cost is 200.00 and is paid to the UMN. For more information and to register, go to

www.minnesotamasternaturalist.org. If you have any questions, you may also contact refuge volunteer and course co-leader Craig Lewis at uscg4fun@gmail.com.

Welcome Steve Sox

North Carolina native Steve Sox will be one of our resident volunteers this season. He comes with a variety of volunteer experiences including tutoring adults in literacy, leading volunteer teams in assisting with natural disasters including hurricanes and floods, and working in community theater. For the last 3 years, he has been volunteering full time at various parks and monuments including Joshua Tree National Park in CA, Cape Hatteras National Seashore in NC, and Cowpens National Battlefield in SC. His professional career was in broadcasting and working in public radio and television.



Some of Steve's hobbies include hiking, bicycling, paddling, and of course traveling. He has visited every state in the country except Connecticut! He is looking forward to spending some time in the North. Here at Tamarac, he will have a variety of duties. He will be presenting interpretive activities, working on maintenance projects, and assisting with our spring environmental education programs. According to Steve, "I am pleased to be able to volunteer my time to help keep America's natural and historic resources available to the public at these times of financial challenges." Steve will be arriving the first week of May and will be working through mid-August if not longer. Please join us in welcoming him to the Tamarac Team!

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Friday, May 3, 8:30 am Earth Day Clean-up Day

Let's spruce up the refuge for our visitors and the critters who call this place home! Litter routes will be assigned and other projects will be tackled. Please RSVP as lunch will be included in this work day for wildlife; 218-847-2641 ext 16.

Thursday May 17 – Monday May 20

Detroit Lakes Festival of Birds

Join in this community event for some great workshops, field trips and speakers. The field trip to Tamarac will be on Saturday May 18. Go to 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. Meet at the Chippewa Picnic Area.

Friday May 24 7:00-8:30 Full Moon Frogging

Kick off your holiday weekend with croaking frogs! Identify frogs by their calls while learning about their natural history and significance in the ecosystem. You may even get up close and personal with these wild critters. Bring a flashlight and boots or shoes you can get wet. Meet at the Pine Lake Parking Area.

Friday May 31 & Saturday June 1

North Country Trail Grand Opening Celebration

Friday 7:00 pm - Free presentation of *The Lives of Wolves, Coyotes, and Foxes* by Minnesota Naturalist, author and nature photographer, Stan Tekiela. Frazee High School Gym.

Saturday, National Trails Day 8:00 am – 3:00 pm. Meet at the Pine Lake Access located just off of Cty Hwy 29 on the refuge. Ribbon cutting at 10:00 am. Guided Hikes 8:00 am – 3:00 pm. Celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the refuge



Photo by Rod Anton "Learn the secrets of taking a great picture as you venture out on the refuge. Join us on June 29 for our digital photography workshop.

as well with cake, lemonade and gift items for sale.

**Sunday June 9 2:00 pm
Family Nature Trek** Join a Tamarac Naturalist as we explore part of the North Country Trail. Discover the wonders of the woods from trees to flowers to the critters who call this place home. You never know what's around the corner! Meet at the North Country Trail access on the Blackbird Wildlife Drive for this mini-hike.

Saturday June 15 10:00 am – 1:00 pm Tamarac Project NOAH Adventure

Learn how to turn your Tamarac wildlife sightings into a documented citizen science observation. This 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. Meet at the

Chippewa Picnic Area located on County Hwy 26 just past the Blackbird Wildlife Drive entrance.

Sunday June 16 2:00 pm Butterfly Kisses and Wetland Jewels

Join John Weber, butterfly enthusiast and citizen scientist, for an intriguing look into the world of butterflies and dragonflies. Learn about their fascinating lifestyles and their significance in a changing environment. Meet at the Chippewa Picnic Area. We will carpool to specific viewing sites in search of these beauties of summer.

Saturday June 22 10:00 am A Pathway through Plants

Join volunteer naturalists Nancy Brennan and Jeanine Ehnert on a journey to discover the rich diversity of Tamarac's plant communities. See how they come together to provide a home for wildlife. Learn to identify wildflowers, trees, and other flora as you leisurely walk on the North Country Trail. Meet at the Pine Lake Parking Area on County Hwy 29.

Saturday June 29 10:00-2:00 pm Digital Photography Workshop

Discover the fun and adventure of photographing wildlife, plant life and the ever changing scenes of nature at Tamarac. Bring your own camera and sack lunch. We'll travel to some unique areas on the refuge. Workshop is geared toward beginner and intermediate levels. Meet at the Chippewa Picnic Area.



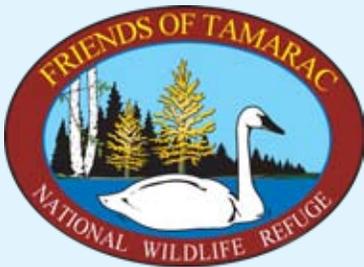
Photo by Denis Mudderman "Join us as we walk on a Pathway Through Plants on June 22"

**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
info@tamaracfriends.org

*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/refuge/tamarac



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Eastern Towhee nest photo by Renae Poole.