



SUMMER 2014

TAMARAC TRACKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF TAMARAC NWR

TAMARAC'S BABIES

page 5



WILD WEDNESDAYS MEANS FREE FUN

page 7

The Wildlife of Tamarac Quilt created by Denise Warweg

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Ron Jensen, President of the Board

It has been almost nine years since some words from a special-needs kindergarten girl impacted our Friends group. As we were walking through the woods with her class, I felt this little hand grasping mine. She had a smile from ear to ear as she looked up at me and said, "Mr. Ron, I've never been in the woods before." The joy in her eyes and voice was indescribable. That day was the starting point for our Friends group to do whatever we could so that no child could say, "I have never been in the woods."

We have grown our program by assisting Tamarac NWR in its effort to "connect children with nature." The program has grown from about

300 to over 3,000 students a year. Because we needed a facility to handle that many children, the idea to build the Discovery Center was born three years ago. Construction has started, and the building is now visible. Although we are well on our way, we have still not reached our fundraising goal. Please keep us in mind whenever you may be in the giving mood.

I would like to meet that little girl of nine years ago and thank her.



Because of her, over 3,000 children each year no longer say, "I've never been to the woods before."



Become a Friend

Membership: \$20

Patron: \$100

Steward: \$250

Life Member: \$500



Friends of Tamarac NWR

35704 County Hwy. 26, Rochert, MN 56578
(218) 844-1767

Website: www.tamaracfriends.org | E-mail: info@tamaracfriends.org | Find us on Facebook

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ron Jensen, President	Ogema, MN	Term Expires
Vonnie Jacobson, Vice President	Rochert, MN	2015
Fran Mattson, Secretary	Ogema, MN	2014
John Jacobson, Treasurer	Rochert, MN	2016
Don Blanding	Rochert, MN	2016
Sandie Boyer	Detroit Lakes, MN	2016
Sue Braun	Rochert, MN	2016
Nancy Brennan	Detroit Lakes, MN	2015
Linda Brockmann	Frazee, MN	2016
Cathie Ferguson	Rochert, MN	2014
Mark Geihl	Fargo, ND	2016
Betty Gunderson	Detroit Lakes, MN	2015
Krista Hesby	Ogema, MN	2015
Jamie Klein	Osage, MN	2015
Denis Mudderman	Detroit Lakes, MN	2014
Jim Sinclair	Rochert, MN	2014
Ray Vlasak	Detroit Lakes, MN	2015
Bill Wickum	Ponsford, MN	2016
	Detroit Lakes, MN	2014

Refuge Advisors to the Board

Neil Powers, Tamarac Refuge Manager	Neil_Powers@fws.gov	218-844-1752
Kelly Blackledge, Tamarac Visitor Services	Kelly_Blackledge@fws.gov	218-844-1757

Newsletter Committee

Vonnie Jacobson, Fran Mattson, Linda Brockmann, Justine Boots, Kelly Blackledge, Nancy Brennan, Janice Bengtson. Layout and design by Angie Pfaff (Loud Media)

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).

EVERY DAY SHOULD BE **EARTH DAY**

By Neil Powers, Manager, Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge



Water provides the “lifeblood” for Tamarac’s habitats and the diverse array of wildlife that call the refuge home. It’s safe to say that our ability to meet the mission of the refuge and its very survival are clearly dependent on the vital mixture of rivers, wetlands, and lakes present today.

Managing water and maintaining wetlands for optimal wildlife habitat is an ongoing process characterized by a mixture of science, past knowledge, and a little cooperation from Mother Nature. While the overall goal for Tamarac is to permit all of our water resources to function as naturally as possible, sometimes human intervention is necessary to restore the natural function or flow of these systems.

Recently the refuge, with help from the Friends of Tamarac, applied for and received a \$25,000 grant to restore several wetlands impaired by past human actions. Heavy equipment will be used to remove hundreds of cubic yards of dirt and other organic material used in the past to build roads and other artificial features no longer in use. This material reduces the

overall surface area of the wetland, displaces wildlife, and degrades the hydrologic function of these delicate habitats. Frequently, added material supports increased vegetation growth including trees and accelerated natural succession, which has resulted in additional wetland habitat loss. Restoration activities are scheduled for this fall, weather permitting.

Wetlands serve many important functions beyond what we see on the surface including serving as buffers during extreme runoff events or as filters to improve water quality. With a little luck and some more cooperation from Mother Nature, by next spring these wetlands will be functioning naturally and will support a wealth of wildlife for years to come.

SAVE THE DATE

COME AND JOIN US FOR A TOAST TO TAMARAC!

AT THE RICHWOOD WINERY SEPTEMBER 12, 2014 4:00 TO 8:00 PM

FOR WINE TASTING WITH A COMMEMORATIVE GLASS, DELICIOUS APPETIZERS, LIVE MUSIC, GAMES AND A SILENT AUCTION. CHECK OUT THE ENCLOSED FLYER FOR DETAILS.

FRIENDS OF TAMARAC MEMBERS

We appreciate our loyal and generous Friends! Memberships fund Friends programs including the Fall Festival, Tamarac Tracks Newsletter, and environmental education programs for school children. The following list is new and renewed memberships and donations received between April 15 and June 1, 2014.

Del Bergseth

Barbara and Peter Boyle

Sue Braun and Gerald

Schumacher

Elizabeth Burda

Dennis and Sherry

Capistran

Paul and Carolyn Cardile

Jim and Jill Eisele

Howard Fredine

John and Cheryl Kippen

Robert and Loxley

Koshnick

Rick Hall and Verna

Kragnes

Steve and Genie Kufus

Walter and Mary Kulberg

Joan Leikness

Pippi Mayfield

Miriam and David Moen

PAINTED TURTLE RESEARCH AT TAMARAC

By Fran Mattson

Once again summer research projects are in full swing at Tamarac. Tim Mitchel, who has his PhD in ecology and environmental biology from Iowa State University, is doing research on the painted turtle. The sex of a painted turtle is directly related to the temperature of the egg during incubation. It is sex dependent on the soil temperature. If the weather is extremely cold, the turtles will be males; if the weather is very warm, the turtles will be females. During most years there is a variety of weather creating both male and female turtles. Their incubation period is from 60-90 days. The sex is determined about one third of the way through the incubation period. A warm nest hatches sooner than when it is cooler outdoors.

In Tim's research, he counts and weighs the eggs and then inserts a temperature logger into the nest, which gives hourly readings of the temperature during their

incubation period. He protects the nest from predators with a netting cover. The nesting site will be assessed as to whether it is a sunny or a shady location. Tim will return to each nesting site in August to determine the sex ratios of the hatched turtles. Unlike other turtles (such as the snapping turtle), which leave the nest immediately after hatching, the painted turtles remain in the nest over the winter in hibernation. The eggs are about the size of a grape. Although there can be as many as 20 eggs, there are about 6-8 eggs in a typical nest. When first hatched, the turtle will be about the size of a quarter.

This is part of a three-year grant, which is being researched in seven different states. Other sites for this grant are in Idaho, Illinois, Nebraska, Kansas, New Mexico, and Oregon. Painted turtles live in a wide range of climate zones from very warm states to very cold states. They seem to be able to adapt to a variety of temperatures. This temperature dependent sex



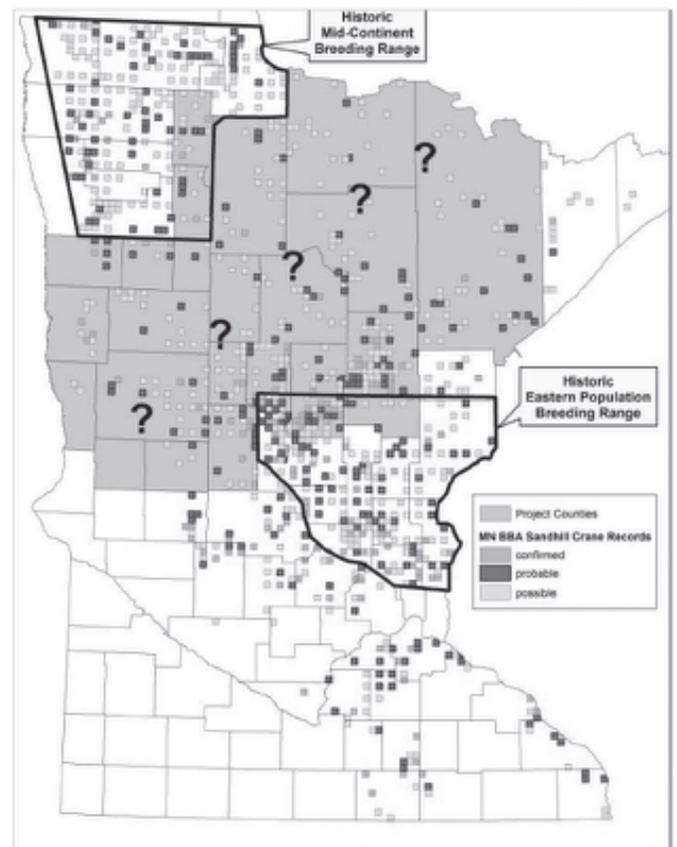
determination does not occur in all types of turtles, but it does occur in other reptiles, such as alligators. The painted turtle is found more than any other type of turtle across the country. How they are able to adapt to such a wide range of climates is not fully understood. How they will adapt to climate changes over the next 200 years is being questioned.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED FOR A SANDHILL CRANE STUDY

Minnesota residents living in Becker County or central Minnesota are asked to report sightings of sandhill cranes seen during the breeding seasons (April--July) of 2014 and 2015 to David Wolfson, 574-360-9733, or to wolfson064@umn.edu.

Wolfson, a University of Minnesota graduate student, is working on a research project studying cranes breeding in northwest Minnesota known as the Mid-Continent Population (MCP) and cranes breeding in east-central Minnesota known as the Eastern Population (EP). These population groups have both expanded their breeding ranges, and Wolfson is collecting data to determine if the ranges now overlap because this would have important implications for hunting management.

With funding from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the University of Minnesota, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, global positioning system transmitters will be placed on the cranes to determine their population and record their migration paths. Cranes migrating to Nebraska (MCP) or cranes migrating to the southeastern United States (EP) will transmit this pertinent information.



TAMARAC'S BABIES



There are approximately 50 breeding pairs of trumpeter swans on the refuge, which have produced more than 100 cygnets each year. The heavy rains in June may have resulted in some flooded nests.



Canada geese mate for life; family units remain together.



Great horned owls have one hatch of young per year. The quality of habitat and food supply relates directly to the number of eggs laid, and the number of young that will successfully fledge from the nest.



The deer population is down 23% from last year. When winter temperatures are very cold, twin fawns are rarely produced, and there is usually some adult female mortality as well.



Refuge staff cut brush and carried out a number of prescribed burns to enhance habitat for grouse, woodcock, and the golden-winged warbler.

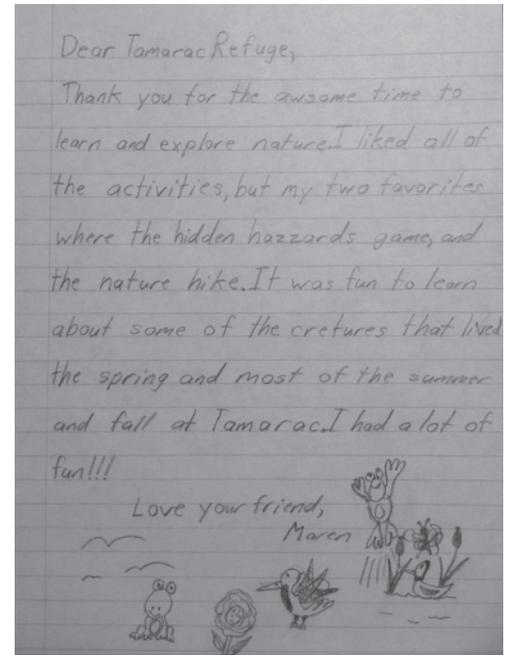
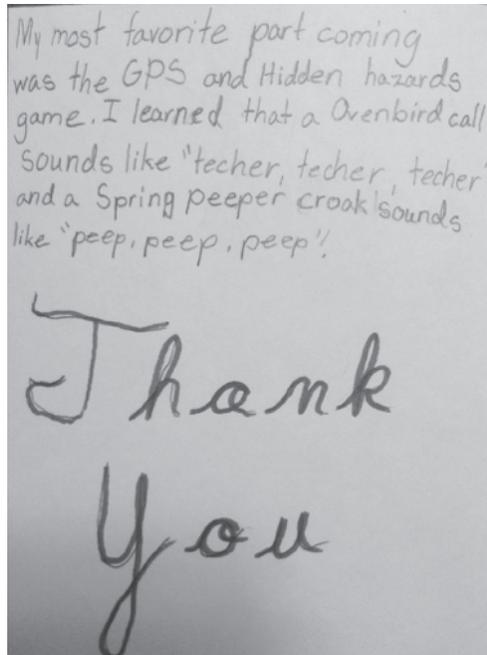


Four fox kits were born very close to the visitor center this spring which has made for some exciting viewings for visitors and employees.

Discover Center Update

By Ron Jenson

The spring and early summer rains caused building delays for the Discovery Center, but construction is now back on track. The roof is on, and the interior work is on-going. We continue to work on reducing expenses to get this project completed within the projected budget. The completion date is scheduled for September 1st, and at that time, the Friends of Tamarac will donate the building to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Kelly has been planning what the total site, including the activity sites, will look like. It is really exciting to see all the parts of this project come together. We are still pursuing every avenue to have this building paid for upon completion so that we can focus on our main mission, which is to connect children with nature. Don't forget us in your giving plans because we still need your help.



YOU CAN BE A PART OF CONNECTING CHILDREN WITH NATURE

There is still time to support The Tamarac Discovery Center with several ways to do it:

- Mail a check made out to FOT Discovery Center, PO Box 1818, Detroit Lakes, MN 56502
- Go to our web site, tamaracfriends.org, click on the donation button and donate there.
- If you want to make a two or three year pledge contact Betty Gunderson at 701-238-0100 or betty.gunderson@gmail.com and she will gladly send you the form.



Wild Wednesdays MEANS FREE FUN!

IT'S BACK! Tamarac Refuge returns this year with the popular family-oriented “Wild Wednesday” program, beginning June 11 and running through August 27. The sessions will be hands-on nature explorations geared toward children ages 3 through 7 years, and each week will be devoted to a different theme. All programs will offer an art activity, a story, and an outdoor experience involving a short hike where topic-appropriate “wonders” are identified. Common subjects are eagles, loons, swans, butterflies, forest insects, frogs, turtles, wildflowers, trees,

deer, squirrels, and various forms of aquatic life.

The Environmental Education Program at Tamarac Refuge builds on a child’s inherent curiosity to learn about his/her surroundings. It is rewarding to see how quickly youngsters can learn to find a tiny ant, locate a spider under a leaf, identify the smell of sap on a spruce tree, or recognize the chirp of a particular species of bird. How fast can you, as an adult, locate an animal, a bird, or a reptile that is camouflaged in its natural habitat? As grown-ups, it

is easy for us to lead our busy lives without being in real touch with our natural environment. The Wild Wednesday program is a chance for your kids to become more aware of the natural world around them.

Young children are invited to meet at the Chippewa Picnic Area at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesdays during the program period, and we ask that each child attending be accompanied by an adult.

VOLUNTEER VIBES

by Janice Bengtson

Summer is in full swing! Volunteers are busy hosting at the visitor center, mowing, leading tours and activities, working on projects, and planning events.

Volunteers are needed for these positions: Environmental Education Assistants and Leaders- lead or assist with 25-45 minute activities. We will be gearing up for fall in no time! Aquatic Invasive Species Educators- must be available on Saturday mornings. Work in teams on a rotating basis throughout summer- please consider being part of this small dedicated team. Wildlife Excursion Guides (Thursday mornings June-August) - Lead visitors on a two hour adventure through the refuge. The Friends Gift Shop Committee is looking for members to assist with product

research and purchasing. Photo Contest Committee members- enter data, filing, organizing photo entries, and setting up exhibits.

Bill Wickum attended Heavy Equipment Tractor Training at Sherburne NWR. He joins Ron Jenson, Luverne Ehnert, and Art Bakker as part of our trail-mowing crew. John Hatch attended chainsaw training and will now be available to take care of fallen trees on trails and roads.

Please welcome new volunteers Janet Bridgers, John and Bridget Hatch, Tim Kessler, Darrell Bauder, Noah Kuck, Mary Elton, Lee Kensinger, Becky Brandt.

Facebook Volunteers of the Month Nancy Brennan was chosen as our April Volunteer of the Month. She organized the spring Friends at the Mall event which took place on April 12. It was a great success as many children explored the activity tables while waiting for the Easter Bunny. Sandie Boyer was named our May recipient for all her work as gift shop manager in preparation for the Festival of Birds and the store opening at the refuge. Both received awards on behalf of the Friends and were featured on Tamarac's Facebook page.

Volunteers may nominate a fellow volunteer by emailing: Janice_Bengtson@fws.gov or by casting a vote in the Volunteer Office.

TAMARAC'S YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS CREW

by Michelle Cain

Summer is a busy time at Tamarac, and luckily the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) crew is here to help. Throughout the summer the three-person crew will be helping with maintenance, wildlife surveys, invasive plant control, water quality sampling, and a variety of other duties.

Wyatt Monroe is a senior at Lake Park-Audubon School. Wyatt came to Tamarac to learn about different aspects of the US Fish and Wildlife Service and find out if this is an area of work he would like to pursue. He plans to attend the University of Minnesota-Morris for two years after his high school graduation, and then complete his schooling at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. He intends to finish his general biology classes and will work toward becoming a game warden. In his free time Wyatt enjoys fishing, hunting, football, basketball, and drag racing. He is looking forward to attending WE Fest this summer.

Tawny Warren is an 11th grade homeschooled student. Tawny enjoys working with animals and being outside, a few of the reasons she decided the YCC program would be a great summer job. Tawny engages with the Tamarac biologists to her advantage by asking as many questions as she can about different species of animals on the refuge. She aspires to be a veterinarian and a small engine mechanic. In her free time she enjoys drawing landscapes, hunting, fishing, and wood carving with her brother. Tawny has been accepted to Minnesota State and is looking forward to her future academic experiences.

Connor Yamane is a junior at Detroit Lakes High School. The YCC program seemed like a good opportunity for him to work outdoors and gain knowledge. He is very interested in the environment and hopes his time at Tamarac will help with future employment. Connor was nominated by a teacher to attend the Washington

Youth Summit on the Environment. He recently returned from Washington DC at George Mason University learning about conservation, climate change, and the environment. Connor was the only student from the Detroit Lakes area to be invited to this event. Soccer is also a large part of his life. He plays throughout the year on different teams around the area. Connor is excited to take advantage of the opportunities he has received.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

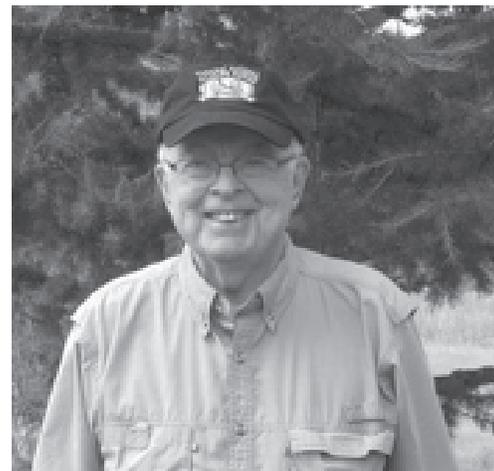
HARRY HALVORSON

Harry grew up in the Fargo-Moorhead area and graduated from NDSU with a Bachelor of Architecture Degree in 1961. He then joined the North Dakota Air National Guard. After basic training, he took an assignment in Bismarck as the State Construction Officer relative to military construction. He coordinated all military construction in the state and worked on his architectural apprenticeship. During his tenure, he became the Commander of the 119th Fighter Group, Civil Engineering Squadron. As commander, he traveled during the winter months to air force bases in the southern U.S. He also had assignments in Hawaii, Panama, and Korea. While assigned to the Guard, he maintained an architectural practice in Fargo for 35 years. After 33 years in the military, he retired as colonel in 1994.

Harry is married to Pat, and they have one daughter who lives in Waverly. Pat taught psychology and also coached at NDSU, St. Cloud State, and Concordia. For many years, they traveled to Florida to spend the winters. In 2000 they purchased a home on Bokeelia, an island west of Cape Coral where they volunteer

at the Chamber Visitor Center. They are also involved with the organization, FISH (Fellow Islanders Seeking Help). FISH provides rides to medical appointments, financial assistance, and medical equipment for those in need. Being part of this organization is very rewarding for Harry. Other interests include Lion's Club, fitness classes, "shelling," and spending time with their dachshunds, Penny and Honey. Currently they spend summers at their cabin on Big Sugarbush Lake.

Harry leads our Aquatic Invasive Species Education Team. He stepped up to this role after the tragic loss of Craig Lewis, who initiated the program 4 years ago. The AIS team works at the Tamarac Lake accesses on Saturday mornings. Harry and his crew teach people about invasives, how to comply with Minnesota laws, and how to take the necessary steps to inspect their own boats. They may see 10-15 boats in a morning; most visitors come from within a 50 mile radius, but a few come from the Twin Cities. He enjoys visiting with people. The team has built a good rapport with the locals, and most boaters thank them for their efforts.



Harry enjoys volunteering at Tamarac because "You couldn't ask for a nicer group of people to work with." Currently the AIS team consists of "Team A" – Cathie Ferguson and Charlie Leitheiser, "Team B" – Jim DuBay and Harry. Connie Carlson and Ken Mattson also help out when they can. Harry encourages you to join the AIS team- "Try it, you'll like it." We are fortunate to have Harry and the team making sure our waters remain pristine.

GETTING TO KNOW JOHN AND BRIDGET



Resident volunteers John and Bridget Hatch have settled into their new summer home at Tamarac. Being from Mississippi, they wanted to escape the hot humid weather of the south and experience life on a wildlife refuge.

John was part of a military family and was born in Bangkok, Thailand. Soon after, the family moved to Hawaii. When John was 10, they moved to California; a few years later, they moved to Madison, Mississippi. John has two brothers and a sister. He attended the same high school as Bridget but was a year younger. With a real interest in firefighting,

John attended the Ridgeland Volunteer Fire Department meetings and training sessions while still in high school. When he turned 18, he was voted in as a volunteer firefighter. The next couple of years he worked for a heating and cooling company and was a welder as well. At 21, he was hired full-time by the Fire Department; he retired as Assistant Chief after 30 years. In recent years, he has owned and managed a lawn-mowing business catering to both residential and commercial clients.

Bridget was born in Beaumont, Texas. When she was 10, her family moved to Ridgeland, MS. Bridget was one of three children. She has an older sister; her younger brother tragically passed away at age 5. After high school, Bridget worked for the city of Jackson. She enjoyed administrative work in the City Clerk's Office for 10 years and another 11 years in the Community Improvement Division. Later, she then worked at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Newborn Medicine. After 25 years with the city of Jackson and the University, she retired.

John and Bridget met in high school but had known each other for years because Bridget's

father was the Captain of the Fire Department. They started dating after Bridget graduated from high school. They soon married, and in 1982, they had a son, Robert. When Robert was older, Bridget started night school; she received her degree in business management in 2002- a great accomplishment!

John and Bridget enjoy their RV lifestyle of traveling, experiencing new places, and meeting new people. Being "full-timers" since 2010, they have volunteered at state parks in Georgia, Florida, and North Dakota. Both enjoy hiking, traveling, photography, watching NASCAR, spending time with their two granddaughters, and playing a game known among RVers as "ladder golf." Favorite places in their travels include Glacier National Park and the mountains of Colorado. Places they would like to visit include Nova Scotia, Alaska, and Vermont.

John is our mower extraordinaire and maintenance assistant. He keeps our lake accesses and interpretive sites safe and inviting for our visitors. Bridget hosts at the visitor center and assists with maintenance and administrative projects.

THE “WILDLIFE OF TAMARAC”

by Justine Boots

The tradition of quilting is an old one; the history of using fabric to tell a story goes back for generations, for centuries. Quilts keep us warm; they decorate our homes, they preserve our cultural identity and legacy. And so it is with “The Wildlife of Tamarac.” Denise Warweg designed, created, and donated this quilt to the silent auction for the upcoming Toast to Tamarac and later for Tamarac’s Fall Festival. It is a queen-sized quilt, and it features the flora and fauna found on the refuge--a Canada goose, a mallard, a deer, a fish, a turkey, and

a bear. The animals in the smaller blocks are connected to the central block by the maple leaf pattern. The muted earth and sky tones of blues and browns are accented by gold and black. A dark border of moose, deer and bear silhouettes frames the entire scene. “It represents the refuge wildlife, which our family has loved and appreciated for 45 years,” said the Tamarac volunteer and Cotton Lake resident.

While Denise was an administrative assistant at Grace Lutheran Church from

2005-2008, she admired the work of their quilting group and soon began quilting with “my Gracies. They mentor me, they share ideas about patterns, fabrics, and colors with me. Quilting is a therapeutic joy for me, and my heart longs to do it.” The Pride and Joy Homemakers of Cotton Lake agreed to donate part of the cost of the required machine-stitching. We are grateful for this gift, and the person holding the winning ticket at the 2014 Fall Festival drawing in October will be lucky, indeed.

THE WILDLIFE OF TAMAMRAC QUILT is on display in The Washington Square Mall next to White Drug. Raffle tickets are available for \$1.00 each at White Drug or call 218-334-8314 or 847-7193.

HELP WANTED!

Friends of Tamarac are looking for volunteers to help clean up after **WE FEST on August 10,11 and 12.** Come and join us raise money for our environmental education projects!



Don't Forget!

The 2014 Annual Photo Contest is underway.

Contest Deadline is September 12.

Categories include:
Wildlife, Plant Life, Recreation,
Scenic, Nature's Abstracts.

For contest information,
visit www.tamaracfriends.org

eBird Kiosk

A new addition to the Visitor Center is our eBird Trail Tracker, a virtual gateway to birds. This system, created by The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, gathers information and tracks sightings of birds. It allows visitors to record their sightings, which then become a part of eBird, an online checklist program. Along with allowing visitors to search sightings and locations of specific birds, this system gives scientists more insight and documentation. So be sure to record your sightings on your next visit to Tamarac!

SUMMER PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Saturday July 12, 8:30 am

Early Birding Tour

Here's another chance to experience the refuge with seasoned birder, Judy Bell. Learn to identify 20 species while visiting various habitats on the refuge. Binoculars and guidebooks will be provided. Meet at the visitor center.

Sunday July 13, 2:00

Movie: Bears

Discover the world of bears and experience a fascinating encounter with one of nature's most inspiring and misunderstood creatures. 40 min. Stay for the Bear Essentials program. Learn how a black bear's lifestyle changes through the seasons.

Sunday July 20, 2:00

Movie: First Flight, A Mother Hummingbird's story

45 min. This award-winning enchanting documentary follows the dedicated efforts of a tiny black-chinned hummingbird to lay, incubate, hatch two tiny eggs, and raise the fledgling chicks. 45 min. Following the film, join us for Hummingbird Trivia and Feeding Tips.

Saturday July 26, 10:00 am

Nature Photo Adventure

Capture the beauty of nature as we explore the refuge. You'll become inspired as we take you to some scenic and perhaps lesser known areas of the refuge. You never know what may be around the bend. Bring a snack and water for this 2 hour photo shoot. Meet at the visitor center.

Sunday July 27, 2:00 pm

Movie: Beavers- The Biggest Dam Movie You Ever Saw!

Take an intimate swim with beavers and experience the rich aquatic habitat of one of nature's greatest engineers. Our most popular movie! 38 min. Following the movie, join us for a fun Beaver Adaptations activity, view video from our beaver cam, and visit a beaver lodge.

Sunday August 3, 2:00 pm

Movie: North America; Episode 3- Learn Young or Die

In the upper reaches of this vast continent, survival is a daily battle. From avalanche-dodging grizzlies to head-bashing big horn sheep, from diving bears to cunning coyotes, we witness the extremes and wonders of North America's mountains and forests. 50 min. Stay to discover more about Tamarac's wildlife survival secrets.

Saturday August 9, 8:30 am Trumpeter

Tour Discover the world of Trumpeter Swans. Learn how this bird was nearly decimated and how Tamarac played a critical role in its amazing recovery. We'll visit several locations to view adults and their young. Meet at the visitor center.

Sunday August 10, 2:00 pm

Movie: An Original Duckumentary

Ducks waddle, glide, dive, and dabble, and their feathers shimmer with dazzling hues. Take to the skies with a flock of Green-winged Teal. Watch Wood Ducks raise a family. Learn why Goldeneyes head north in the winter. 50 min. After the film, join a duck enthusiast and learn how to identify ducks and hear some calls.

Saturday August 16, 10:00 am

A Peak at Prairie Wildflowers

This hike will take us through prairie plant communities that harbor many species more typical of the Dakotas. We will also see a young patch of jack pine that is successfully regenerating when many are floundering across MN. Field guides, handouts, and hand-lenses will be provided. Bring water, cameras, and sun-screen for this two hour trek. Meet at the visitor center to carpool a short distance to hiking site.

Sunday August 17, 2:00 pm

Bugs and Creepy Crawlers: Adventures in Insect Sweeping

Insects are part of a healthy ecosystem on the refuge. We'll explore their habitat as we work the meadows with sweep nets. After collecting, we'll view these critters up close with magnifiers and identify a few species. Meet at the visitor center for this family fun adventure.

Saturday August 23, 10:00 am

Nature Photo Adventure

Late summer flowers will be blooming, and there will be a touch of autumn in the air. It's just in time to capture some photos for Tamarac's Annual Photo Contest. Maybe that winning shot will be yours this day! Bring your camera, a snack, and water for this 2 hour tour. Meet at the visitor center.

Sunday August 24, 2:00 pm

Movie: Wolves

Discover the world of wolves by plane, helicopter, on foot, and through time. 40 min. Stay for the latest update on Tamarac's wolves with a possible habitat site visit.

Sunday August 31, 2:00 pm

Movie: The Civilian Conservation Corps

Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps put more than three million young men in the nation's parks, forests, and farms. This film interweaves rich archival imagery with the personal accounts of CCC veterans to tell the story of the boldest New Deal experiments. 60 min. Stay to tour the site of Tamarac's CCC Camp. Driving distance is 2.5 miles.

Saturday September 6, 10:00 am Wilderness Kayak Cruise

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act! Experience the beauty of an early autumn day on the lake. Join a refuge ranger to explore the wilderness islands of Tamarac Lake. What is "designated" wilderness, and what does it mean for people and wildlife? Meet at the East Tamarac access with your canoe or kayak for this adventure. Life jackets are required.

Sunday September 7, 2:00 pm

Movie: Forever Wild

To experience wilderness is to know one of this country's greatest treasures. Forever Wild captures the glory of undeveloped, wild places through stunning images and the passionate tales of America's modern wilderness heroes – volunteers who work to preserve a legacy of wilderness for all of us to enjoy, forever. Stay and find out how you can make a difference in your own backyard. Join Janice Bengtson, volunteer coordinator, and learn about the many volunteer opportunities on the refuge.

Friday September 12, 4:00-8:00 pm Toast to Tamarac!

The Friends of Tamarac invite you to their 4th annual Toast to Tamarac at the Richwood Winery. The fundraiser will include appetizers, wine tasting, silent auction, games of chance, and live music. Cost is 25.00 in advance and 35.00 at the door. Profits from this event will help support the environmental education program at Tamarac, which connects children with nature. Visit www.tamaracfriends.org for more information.

Saturday September 13, 2:00-5:30 pm Wilderness Photo Safari

Experience autumn on the refuge through the lens of a camera. We will travel by car caravan to the edge of the northern wilderness area. From there we will take a short hike to capture images of this very interesting and diverse habitat. As time permits, we will stop for other photo opportunities to and from the site. Bring your camera, a snack, water, good walking shoes, and creativity!

Sunday September 14, 2:00 pm

Movie: Green Fire; Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time

This Emmy Award winning film explores the life and legacy of famed conservationist Aldo Leopold and the many ways his land-ethic philosophy lives on in the work of people and organizations all over the country today. 73 min. Stay for a short presentation on his writing including passages from a Sand County Almanac and see how he has influenced wildlife management today at Tamarac.

**NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS
OF TAMARAC NWR**

Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge
35704 County Highway 26
Rochert, MN 56578

www.tamaracfriends.org

Phone: 218-844-1767
info@tamaracfriends.org

Find Us on Facebook!

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



PRSR STD
US POSTAGE PAID
DETROIT LAKES,
MN
56501
PERMIT NO. 707



Tamarac Refuge provides places for families to make memories in nature. Photo by Denise Warweg