



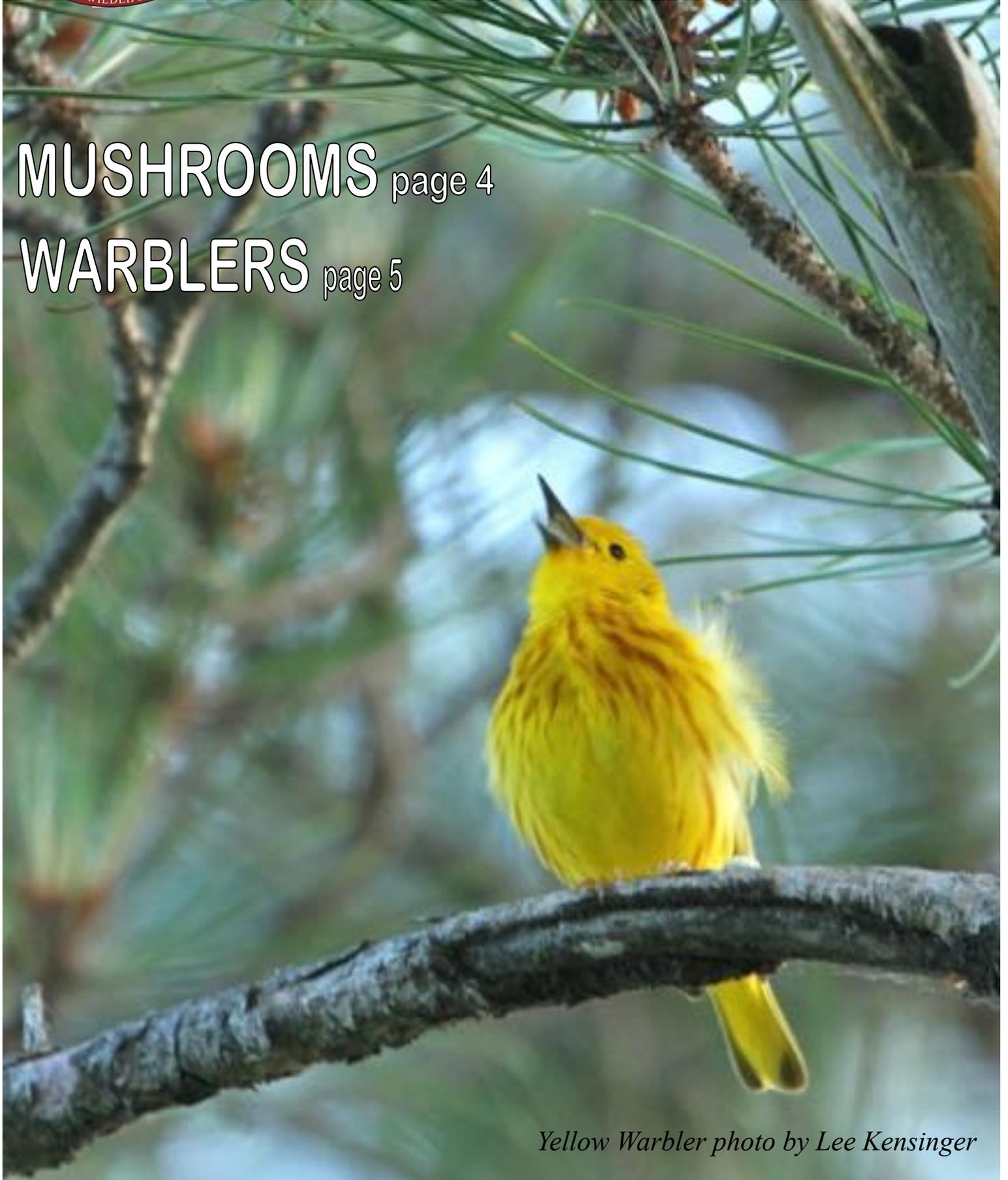
SPRING 2016

TAMARAC TRACKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF TAMARAC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

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Yellow Warbler photo by Lee Kensinger



SPRING ERUPTS ON TAMARAC

By Vonnie Jacobson President of the Friends of Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge Board

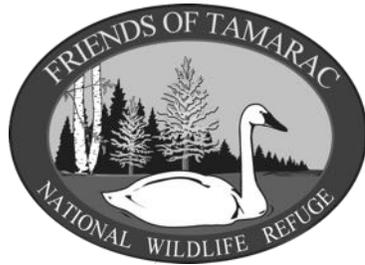
Spring is a wonderful time at Tamarac with the renewal of its vital essence into budding trees, emerging greenery, returning birds, and awakening wildlife. All around we hear the sounds of spring calling us outdoors to explore our refuge. The trumpeters, geese and loons calling and pairing off two by two and the frogs emerging in the ponds set up quite the chorus. Another sound of spring you can't miss is the children arriving for their spring school visit with their lively energetic response to Tamarac and the fun they will have taking their education into the great outdoors.

This spring has also been a time the Friends of Tamarac have been honored by the National Wildlife Refuge Association with the Molly Krival Friends Group of the Year award. "The Friends of Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge shows how a grassroots organization can

develop into a powerhouse," said David Houghton, president of the National Wildlife Refuge Association. "This Friends group is an invaluable resource, ensuring Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge is an integral part of the community."

In the award press release our Friends group received high praise for its most impressive initiative of funding and building Tamarac's Discovery Center and its use as the hub for the refuge environmental education programs, citizen science training, and conservation planning. The Friend of Tamarac's passion for connecting people and nature, as well as our regular incorporation of national initiatives, like the disappearing monarch, into events and outreach strategies were lauded. Every member of Friends of Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge should take pride in this national honor.

Also The Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce awarded Friends of Tamarac their Tourism award at their annual banquet. The award is a wonderful affirmation of our close ties to our business community and their support for our work at Tamarac. See page 9 for the story.



Become a Friend

Membership: \$20

Patron: \$100

Steward: \$250



Friends of Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge

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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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | | Term Expires |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
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Refuge Advisors to the Board

| | | |
|--|--|---------------------|
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Vonnie Jacobson, Fran Mattson, Linda Brockmann, Justine Boots, Kelly Blackledge, Nancy Brennan, Janice Bengston, Denise Warweg

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).



The Other Minnesota Season

By Alisha Haken, Assistant Refuge Manager

It goes back to the old joke that there are two seasons here in Minnesota, winter and road construction! Now that winter seems to have wrapped up, signs of the next season are becoming evident. Signs of road construction, that is! Just the other day I passed a road crew sealing cracks and decorating the road with tissue paper. I'd say that road construction season is definitely upon us. Tamarac, too, is scheduled to experience some of our very own road construction soon.

Beginning in early June the Visitor Center parking lot and entrance road will be redone with an anticipated timeline of 90 days. This construction will incorporate additional parking stalls, accessible parking, and improved access to both the Visitor Center and the Discovery Center. The new parking lot will provide a safe environment for visitors with the construction of a new walking path between the Visitor Center and the Discovery Center, increased lighting in the

parking lot and along walkways, a reorientation of the traffic flow.

A second construction project is on the docket for Tamarac this road construction season as well. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources plans to repair their public boat access on Cotton Lake. This project is anticipated to take place over the course of a week in July in partnership with Tamarac staff. The plan is to rehab the launch to ease boat access and to regrade the approach to address the erosion concerns. Tamarac will need to close the access and that portion of the refuge temporarily for this construction project.

Both of these projects will be a temporary inconvenience to our visitors and staff, however, in the long run, there are countless benefits from both projects for future visitors and staff use here at Tamarac. Please feel free to contact our office with questions regarding these projects. As the projects move forward, Tamarac will update the public with progress reports. Thank you in advance for your patience and support through this enhancement to your beautiful facilities.

Members December 15/January 16/February 16/March 16 - New 2016 memberships

Thank you to all the wonderful members of Friends of Tamarac! Your support funds Friends educational programs, our naturalist program, photo hikes, the Fall Festival, and our participation in the Festival of Birds. Following is a list of new and renewed members received between December of 2015 and March 2016.

Lifetime Membership

Ira Burhans
Ray & Lynette Vlasak

Stewards

Dan & Kim Grandbois

Patrons

Art & Arlene Bakker
Robert Ehnert
Mark & Cindy Fritz
Jerry Fox
Walter Johnson
Suzon Braun & Gerald Schumacher
Mark & Donna Voxland
James & Lois Wood

Annual Memberships and Donations

Becky & Larry Aarestad
Dick Alsop
Kent & Gretchen Anderson

Pam Benedict
Ruth Bergquist
Kelly & Scott Blackledge
Andrea Bonney
Nancy & Les Brennan
Larry & Adrienne Buboltz
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Don & Pam Steinmetz
James & Jan Stewart
David Ulrick
Margaret Wagener
Michael & Patricia West
David & Katherine Wilson

MAY IS MUSHROOM MONTH

by John Boots

To put it alliteratively, May is morel mushroom month in Minnesota. The particular mushroom with which we are concerned is *Morchella esculenta*, the common morel, also called the yellow morel. The genus name translates as "Morel" and the species name as "edible," though the latter is actually an example of understatement. Enthusiasts agree unanimously that *deliciosa* or *succulenta* would have been more accurately descriptive. In other places, these mushrooms go by different names, some of them undeniably charming: Molly Moochers, Hickory Chickens, and Dryland Fish, for example. When Minnesotans talk about "wild mushrooms," however, everyone knows they mean the yellow morel. It is, after all, Minnesota's state mushroom.

The cap of the common morel is generally conical in shape, and it is deeply and irregularly pitted. It is commonly called the "sponge mushroom" because it so closely resembles a sea sponge on a stalk. Size may range from a couple of inches for young specimens to 5-6" for older, late-season examples. The cap is tightly fused to the stalk from the bottom of the cap upwards. This feature is very clear if the mushroom is sliced in half from top to bottom. There is no hint of the "umbrella" effect so common in many other mushrooms. The same interior view will show that both stem and cap are hollow. If the cap is compartmented or the stalk filled with cotton-like fluff, discard the mushroom. It is not *M. esculenta* or any other edible morel.

Actually, the chance of encountering an imposter in your journey toward a plate of morels is very small. With reasonable care and a good field guide it is nonexistent. The far greater obstacle is finding the morels in the first place. The best time and place to find



them is probably at the time and in the place where you found them last year. If you did not find any last year, however, there are a few hints that may make your hunt easier.

The old almanacs tell us that the appearance of morels will coincide with the emergence of the oak leaves. Specifically, the morels will begin to fruit when the oak leaves achieve the size of mouse ears. Weather conditions are also important, though, and if the oak leaves are right, you should look for the crucial conditions of moisture and warmth. Perfect conditions for an all-out foray will come a day or two after a significant rain shower, and will be marked by daytime temperature in the 70s and night-time lows above forty.

The places to conduct your hunt will be dictated in part by mushroom biology. Since fungi lack chlorophyll, they cannot use solar energy to manufacture their own food by photosynthesis. This means that they must be in direct physical contact with that food, so that the decay-causing enzymes secreted by the mushroom can convert the organic matter into absorbable fluids. That constant tells you that you must do your mushroom hunting where those potential foods--forest humus, leaf mold, pine duff, decaying wood--are available and visible.

In practical terms, warmth being a factor, this means that you should do your early season hunting on the lower edges of south-facing slopes in fairly open areas. The edges of recent clear cuts are often good, and the presence of aspen, ash, elm, or oak trees make them even better. Common plant companions to morels are ferns and jack-in-the-pulpits. The more of these factors you can combine, the better your chances are. As the season progresses, go deeper into the woods and onto the north-facing slopes. Too much sunshine is as bad as too little for the propagation of morels.

As you read this, the morel season is well underway in Becker and surrounding counties. Go to the woods, enjoy the search, and relish the feast. Good hunting!



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT ON DENISE WARWEG

by Justine Boots

Her love of nature is as old as she is, and one of her earliest childhood memories is being with her father while he was pheasant hunting. When she was eight, she remembers looking for chrysalises with him to complete a Monarch butterfly project. She has long hiked the Tamarac trails, fished in its lakes, and hunted in its woodlands. As a young mother, she often accompanied her husband Mike. He hunted grouse and she carried her babies in a backpack and introduced them to her passion for the natural world. Today, she continues to find balance in her busy life on Tamarac's trails, sometimes to simply sit and listen, sometimes to meditate and reflect on what is truly important. "This is when my faith and nature truly come together." She loves to paint and draw, to read and write, to quilt, to tie spinner baits. Meet FOT Board member Denise Warweg.

At Tamarac, one of her favorite activities is helping with all the Environmental Education classes because "children are the future of preserving and conserving nature." She volunteers in the Visitor Center where she has many opportunities to share the beauties of the refuge. She is a gifted photographer and considers her collection of thousands of Tamarac photos as an important way to document and share her enthusiasm for its mission--to connect children with nature. She is the Chair of the FOT Membership Committee and is careful to keep the data base and gift donations to the Discovery Center up-to-date. At present, she is very involved in the creation of birdhouses and the Dilly Bar project, which are two current FOT fundraising activities. She is a new member of the FOT Board, grateful to have the opportunity to "share the pristine beauty of Tamarac and all its complexities."

Denise's entire life has been directed by her love of the outdoors. Her gift of understanding how to connect us all with nature is a treasure for our shared Tamarac community.

Hot Spots for Warblers

by Fran Mattson



Birders not only tune in to the details in appearance of the birds, but often create words that mimic the song of the

birds. “Please-please-please-to-meetcha” might signify the chestnut-sided warbler. “I’m so sweet or tseet tseet tseet titi deet” might alert one to the yellow warbler. Avid bird watcher Judd Brink commented that you might easily sight a dozen different warblers on the Tamarac Refuge Tour connected with the Detroit Lakes Bird Festival, which takes place each year in the middle of May. Brink has been a field guide at eighteen of these festivals.

Tamarac is one of the premier birding locations, particularly in May as the spring migration takes place. As many as 250 species of birds have been observed here, 25 of the warbler species. The varied habitat of pines, hardwood forests, lakes, marshes, and bogs draws the birds.

The warblers either nest here or pass through during migration. According to Brink, owner of Minnesota Backyard Birds, spring is prime time for seeing the fast and colorful warblers. They are much more confusing to identify in the fall when they are not as colorful. Many of the warbler species are known as neo-tropical migrants, those that winter in Central and South America. Warblers are primarily insect-eating, and they arrive in the spring along with the arrival of their food source. One of the sure signs



of spring is the arrival of the yellow-rumped warblers. They are typically the first to arrive.

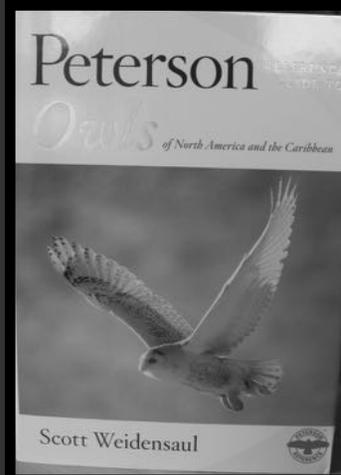
There has been research on the golden-winged warblers on the refuge since 2006. It is among the most vulnerable and steeply declining bird species in North America. Scientists are looking at habitat loss, hybridization with the blue-winged warbler, global climate change, and the ability to survive in their wintering grounds of Central and South America as possible reasons for decline. For many birders this sighting is a real highlight, as this species is of high continental conservation concern and is listed as a Resource Conservation Priority species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Tamarac Refuge has some of the largest



concentrations of golden-winged warblers in the country. They can be seen along woodland edges and in young aspen stands.

Some particularly good locations on the refuge for birding are the Chippewa Picnic area, the section of North Country Trail running along Tamarac Lake as well as east and west of the wildlife drive crossing, the Old Indian Trail, and the Blackbird Wildlife Drive. When on the wildlife drive, you might want to drive with your windows open so that you can hear them as well as see them. A stop along the wildlife drive near the observation platform may

allow you some good viewing opportunities. Take advantage of the beauty and diversity of the refuge for prime-time birding. Judd Brink will be conducting a birding workshop at Tamarac on June 11th.



The Tamarac Gift Shop is now stocked and ready with some exciting new children’s books and new product offerings for the whole family.

Come and shop!



Hidden Hazards

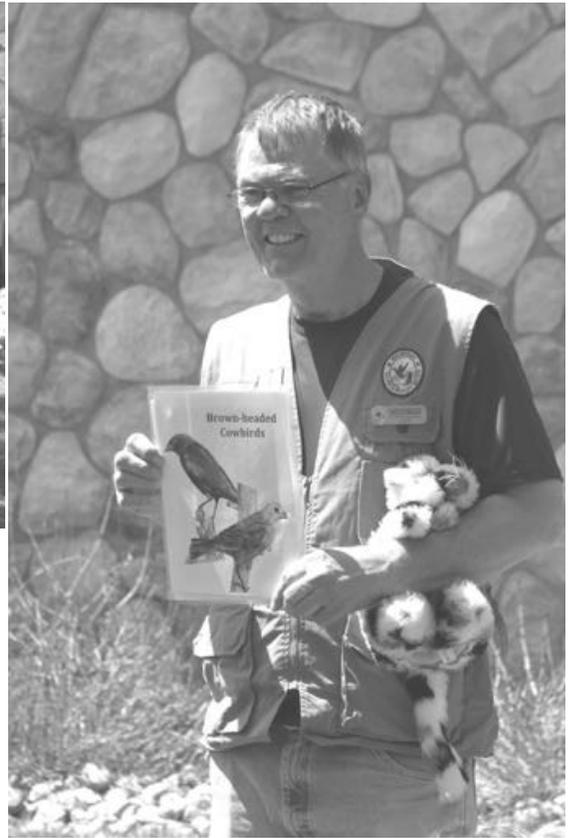
A BIRD MIGRATION ACTIVITY.

By Dave Schneider

Tamarac has 258 different species of birds that stop here while migrating or make this their summer home.

Hidden Hazards is used each spring with 3rd grade students to show them some of the hazards birds encounter as they migrate. Birds travel long distances each spring and fall searching for food, water, and shelter. We discuss with the 3rd graders what types of hazards the birds may encounter as they migrate. We focus on collisions, chemicals, cats, and cowbirds. Millions of birds are killed each migration due to collisions with wires or windows. Millions more are killed by

cats. Chemicals can contaminate food and water which kill many more birds. Cowbirds lay their eggs in other bird species' nests and then leave. Cowbird eggs have a shorter incubation time and often hatch before the host's eggs. Cowbird chicks are usually larger than the host's chicks and out compete them for food and space. After the discussion we play a game that helps the students understand the dangers involved in migration. The students must survive wires (a swinging jump rope), a cat (student with a cat puppet), and buildings (students with open or closed cards behind their backs). They must also pick up a colored egg at the nesting grounds and gather food (different colored chips). Those students that did not get caught by the cat or collide with the wire or the closed windows are at their summer habitat with their egg and their food. They are then told which color egg is a cowbird egg and which color chip is contaminated food. The students that have those colors join the other students that did not survive the migration. The students see that only about half of the class survived all the hazards. We have time to play the game several times with different students getting a chance to play different roles. This is a fun and interactive way to show the students the hidden hazards of bird migration.



"Dilly Bar Gram"



Friends of Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge had a very successful "Dilly Bar Gram" fund raising event that was met with an outpouring of community support. Folks at The Humane Society enjoyed a Dilly Gram of thanks from Kelly Blackledge.



Partner Schools at Tamarac

By Nancy Brennan

Tag along with us this fine spring morning as we wait for the buses to roll to a stop in front of Tamarac’s new Discovery Center. Watch the third graders enthusiastically pour out of the bus eager to follow their classroom teacher to their first activity. The students are excited, focused and familiar with the general routine, because it is their third visit to Tamarac Refuge this school year. During their first visit in the fall, they are a little shy and don’t quite know what to expect. In the winter they seem awed with the stillness and keep warm during their snowshoe trek and other activities. By spring-time they are bursting with curiosity to see the new changes to THEIR Tamarac Refuge.



This is the picture of a “Partner School.” Tamarac staff and dedicated volunteers provide the students with about fifteen science standards-based activities in three seasons. The school provides the commitment to bring the students to the refuge and reinforce the lessons in their classroom. Three visits to Tamarac allow the students to build on their knowledge and awareness of the refuge and bring “real world” science to life.

Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge currently has seven Partner Schools: Rossman, Roosevelt and Holy Rosary in Detroit Lakes; Circle of Life, Pine Point and Ogema on the White Earth Reservation; and Perham. There are also non-partner schools that bring students once a year from Frazee and Moorhead. More schools in the area would like to become Partner Schools, but before any more schools can be added, more teachers must be recruited.

We welcome you to join our volunteer teaching team! If you enjoy the outdoors and children, we would love to have you come out and shadow or observe our activities. Please contact Janice Bengtson at Janice_bengtson@fws.gov for more information.



Bell State Bank employees, Cheryl Stock, Will Stanger, Jade Witty and Jonathan Skauge included Friends of Tamarac in their Pay It Forward charitable program.



The Spring Training for volunteers was a success with 8 new candidates participating and 13 returning volunteers. This is a great way to get a more detailed insight and update of refuge operations. As you know, we also offer a behind-the-scenes tour at each of these events. This tour had an unexpected stop to see a recently released bear from Detroit Lakes. While releasing wildlife on the refuge is not common practice, this situation required our assistance. Volunteers had a chance to visit with our White Earth partners from the Natural Resource Dept (Conservation officer Al Fox & Biologist Doug McArthur and another officer) Along with Wayne Brininger, they provided some insight on the tranquilizer process and some bear biology. This young bear was likely a 1-2 yr old that was kicked out of the den/family clan as new cubs are now in need of care. The young bear was likely searching for an easy meal an a new territory.

"When bears come out of hibernation they begin wondering in search of food sources. In the spring, especially an early spring like this year, they often struggle to find enough food since their primary food such as berries, leaves and other green vegetation are not abundant yet. This makes it more enticing to wonder further, even into backyards" explained Tamarac Wildlife Biologist Wayne Brininger.

"Bear are opportunistic when it comes to available food sources, particularly when there is a lack of natural foods available. Tamarac provides an expansive, healthy habitat for bears. Like many other species, bear do roam a great distance. "



Friends of Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge Named 2016 Molly Krival Friends Group of the Year

We are proud to share the news that Friends of Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge has been named the 2016 Molly Krival Friends Group of the Year by the National Wildlife Refuge Association. National Wildlife Refuge Association President David Houghton made the announcement February 17, 2016 in Washington, D.C. and a formal presentation is planned for the end of June. This national award is named to honor the late Molly Krival, a pioneer in the Refuge Friends Group movement and is sought after by Friends groups across the country. The Friends of Tamarac was established more than 20 years ago by local refuge supporters and aimed to help meet the needs of the refuge. Since that time, the group has developed into an organization with a broader awareness and greater appreciation of the National Wildlife Refuge System mission. "The Friends of Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge shows how a grassroots organization can develop into a powerhouse," said David Houghton, president of the National Wildlife Refuge Association. "This Friends group is an invaluable resource, ensuring Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge is an integral part of the community." Always conscientious in the delivery of their messages, Friends of Tamarac ensures that they tie local refuge management objectives with those of the wider National Wildlife Refuge System. From migratory birds to monarchs, the Friends regularly incorporate national initiatives into events and outreach strategies. The Friends group's most impressive initiative has been

the Tamarac Discovery Center capital campaign, which was donated to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service June 2015. This 2,000 square-foot, \$800,000 building is the hub for the refuge environmental education programs, citizen science training and conservation planning. Even with the challenge of fundraising in a small, rural community, the Friends of Tamarac have demonstrated impressive fundraising, reaching 96% of the goal amount and securing a zero interest loan to assure completion as planned. Their pioneering work is paving a path for other Friends groups who are interested in working within our agency construction guidelines and specifications, as well as, donation policy when it comes to real property. The Friends of Tamarac is particularly passionate about connecting people and nature. From leading interpretive workshops on the refuge flora and fauna for families, to a weekly nature explorations for youth through the summer months. "The Friends of Tamarac are building a living legacy of conservation stewards through a dynamic environmental education program," commented Neil Powers, Tamarac Refuge Manager. "They reach out to schools in the nearby communities including those in the White Earth Indian Reservation." "I'm continually amazed that our Friends, refuge staff, volunteers, community partners, business leaders and private citizens all came together with a goal of making this project a reality. I am especially proud of the fact that



we all came together as 'investors' in the future of natural resources conservation," continued Powers. The group goes above and beyond in trumpeting the benefits of Tamarac Refuge to our local community, be it through traditional environmental education programs or direct to fellow community groups like the Izaak Walton League, Rotary, and Kiwanis. They have partnered with the refuge on county-wide and watershed district projects and recognize the opportunity to promote land stewardship, connect corridors of conservation units and demonstrate the role the refuge plays on a larger landscape level. Friends of Tamarac take an interest in the science and research happening on the refuge as well. In recent years, the Friends of Tamarac have been awarded grants that assist biologists with data collection of water quality projects, ecological classification systems, wetland restoration projects and extensive tree planting for enhancing forest habitats. The positive impact that Friends of Tamarac continues to have here in Minnesota has sent a ripple effect across the National Wildlife Refuge System and it is gratifying to see their efforts expand to a national scene.

At the Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce annual meeting President Carrie Johnston presented The Friends of Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge with this year's Tourism Award. "Each year the Chamber recognizes an organization that is a great example for keeping the tourism industry strong in our region. This year's recipient has shown how a big idea to provide a proper learning facility can help kids, schools and adults to connect with nature, science and our local ecology. Thank you to the staff, board of directors, donors and many volunteers who help enhance the experience of learning at our local National Wildlife Refuge".

The Friends of Tamarac are honored and proud to accept this award from our community that is both generous and thoughtful in support of our mission.



Volunteer Vibes

by Janice Bengtson

Happy Spring! The chorus frogs are calling, the trumpeters are trumpeting, the woodland birds are singing, flowers are blooming, and the bears are out and about! It is exciting to see some green, feel the sunshine, and smell the forest after a spring rain. The Discovery Center is already “base camp” for hundreds of school children. Seasonal employees will be arriving soon, bird surveys will be conducted, trails will be spruced up, and wetlands will be restored. It is the start of another busy field season! We are counting on *you* to assist us in accomplishing our conservation goals for 2016.

Wanted:

Visitor Center Hosts (4 hr shifts) - welcome visitors, answer questions, operate cash register for gift shop sales, answer refuge phone calls, show movie. **Environmental Education Assistants and Leaders**- lead or assist with 25-45 minute activities including preparation, set-up, delivery and tear down for each day. Students visit three times during the year (May, October, February). Come join our fun team! **Aquatic Invasive Species Educators**- must be available weekend mornings (mostly Saturdays), work in teams on a rotating basis throughout summer. **Maintenance Assistants** – assist with maintenance projects; may include sign installation, painting, mowing using riding lawn mower and trailer to transport. **Wildlife Excursion Guides** (Thursday mornings June-August) - lead visitors on a two hour adventure through the refuge. Training includes shadowing a seasoned guide and a tour outline. Must enjoy engaging with the public and have an interest in learning more about the refuge and its wildlife.

Cheers to these Volunteers of the Month:

January: Cathie Ferguson, February: Jim DuBay, March: Ron Jenson. The Volunteer of the Month is nominated by their peers and their pictures are posted on Tamarac’s Facebook page and the Friends Website. A small award provided by the Friends is presented as well.

Kudos to Connie Carlson, Becky Aarestad, and Janet Bridgers.

They will be presenting children’s wildlife programs at the Bagley, Mahnomen, and Detroit Lakes Libraries this summer. Thanks for providing outreach to the children of these communities. As you may know, the Bagley area is part of our five county Wetland Management District.

Welcome new volunteers: Becky and Larry Aarestad, Dean Kragerud, Pam and Jim Benedict, John Haack, David Israel, Kay Lohman, Larry Michelson. It is great to have you on board! Resident volunteers Mark and Deb Culley will be arriving in late May. They will be assisting in maintenance and covering the Visitor Center on Sundays. Dave McKenna, a local from Buffalo, Minnesota, will be spending June and July on the refuge as a maintenance assistant. He comes with experience from the Army Corps of Engineers. This will be his first assignment with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. For the months of August and

September, Wayne Beckett from Missouri will be taking his first resident volunteer assignment as a maintenance assistant. He is very excited to start this new adventure. His wife Jackie will accompany him.



A “selfie” of Mark and Deb Culley, resident volunteers.

Meet the Culleys

Mark and Deb Culley will be spending the summer as resident volunteers here at Tamarac. This is their 4th year volunteering on the road. They have worked at two state parks in Missouri and for the last two summers they have volunteered at Horicon National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin. This past winter, they were at Balcones Canyonlands NWR near Austin, TX. The Culleys love the outdoors, learning new things about nature and seeing different parts of the country.

Like many RVers, the Culleys are members various volunteer groups. One of them is the NOMADS, a group of volunteers associated with the United Methodist Church. As part of this group, they have completed disaster work in TX and AR after wildfires and tornados. They have also worked on several projects including building desks for missions in Africa using recycled wood from old school bleachers. Another organization they belong to is the RV-Care-A-Vanners, a group that does two week home building projects with Habitat for Humanity. So far they have worked on homes in Springfield, MO and Brookings, SD. They enjoy the combination of completing projects for those in need and meeting great people.

Deb and Mark are both originally from Iowa, but have lived and worked in Kansas City, MO for over 35 years. Before retiring Mark was a salesman for a manufacturer’s rep firm selling electronics. Deb was in commercial property and casualty insurance doing customer service and marketing.

They look forward to meeting everyone at Tamarac and learning more about the refuge.

Movies and Activities

Wildlife Excursions: Explore the refuge with a knowledgeable guide. Tours will be offered **every Thursday June-August at 10:00 am**. Search for wildlife and learn about the cultural and natural history of the refuge on this driving tour. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Wild Wednesdays: 10:00 am June –August. Explore the world of nature with your child during this hour long adventure geared for 3-6 year olds. Meet at the Discovery Center.

Sunday May 29, 2:00 pm

Movie: Animal Homes, Episode 2: Location, Location, Location

Finding a good base of operations is key to successfully raising a family. One must find the correct stream or tree, the correct building materials, neighbors and sometimes tenants. In the wild, every home is a unique DIY project, every head of household is a designer and engineer. Look into the homes of beavers, tortoises and wood rats. 50 min.

Saturday June 4, 10:00 am-1:00 pm

Wildflower Photography Excursion

Enjoy an array of spectacular Tamarac wildflowers in this three hour excursion. Meet at the Discovery Center to learn some wildflower photography tips. We will then carpool to select locations to see woodland and prairie bloomers. With some luck and good timing we may catch the elusive Showy Orchis orchid in bloom. Bring your camera, walking shoes, repellent, water, a snack or sack lunch.

Sunday June 5, 2:00 pm

Movie: Born Wild

Across the animal kingdom, some of the most essential lessons and the most extreme challenges occur in the first moments of life. It is in these very trials that the most extraordinary glimpses of life in the wild come to light. 50 min

Saturday June 11, 8:30-1:00

Birding Workshop & Excursion

Join Expert Birding Guide Judd “Bird Man” Brink for some bird identification lessons and then head out into the field to develop those skills. You’ll identify 15-30 species. Binoculars and field guides are available to borrow. Bring a sack lunch and water for this morning birding adventure. Meet at the Discovery Center

Sunday June 12, 2:00 pm

Movie: Disney Nature: Bears

Showcasing a year in the life of a bear family, their journey begins as winter ends. Emerging from hibernation, a mother and cubs face the bitter cold and an exciting but very risky outside world. Astonishing footage captures the fast-moving action and suspense of an endearing family learning to live life to its fullest in the wilds of Alaska. 78 min.

Sunday June 19, 2:00 pm

Movie: Disney Nature - Wings of Life

Celebrate Pollinator Week! Narrated by Meryl Streep, this intimate and unprecedented look at butterflies,

hummingbirds, bees, bats and flowers is a celebration of life. One-third of the world’s food supply depends on these incredible creatures. 80 min.



Sunday June 26, 10-3:00

Movie: 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 of native bees are in serious decline and how it’s affecting our dinner table and that of wildlife. 25 min.

Sunday July 3, 2:00 pm

Movie: American Eagle

Take an unprecedented look at a year in the life of North America’s most recognized aerial predator. From the pristine wilderness of Alaska to the Upper Mississippi River Valley, go behind the scenes and into the nest to discover the eagle’s struggle to survive. 55 min.

2016 Photo Contest

Don’t forget to capture those memories of Tamarac! Categories include Wildlife, Scenic, Recreation, Nature’s Abstracts, Plant Life. Deadline is September 9th. For more information and contests rules, visit www.tamaracfriends.org.

**Newsletter of the Friends of Tamarac NWR
Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge**

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Www.tamaracfriends.org
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Find us on 

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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THE TAMARAC QUILT IS HERE!

**TICKETS WILL AVAILABLE FROM
FRIENDS OF TAMARAC
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
AND THRIFTY WHITE DRUG.**

**THE QUILT WILL BE
ON DISPLAY
AT WASHINGTON SQUARE MALL
"ASPEN DREAMS"
HAS BEEN CREATED BY JANET BRIDGERS**