



FALL 2013
TAMARAC TRACKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF TAMARAC NWR

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FALL AT TAMARAC

By Don Blanding, President of the Board

Let me be totally honest with you. Fall is my favorite time at Tamarac. A walk in the woods with a shotgun and a yellow labrador in search of ruffed grouse is about as good as it gets. Think of the scent of falling leaves, crisp air, and the occasional burst of feathers that makes one jump. During these walks one of my weaknesses is to keep walking to see what's around the next corner or over the next hill. The thought of turning back seems like a weakness of sorts.

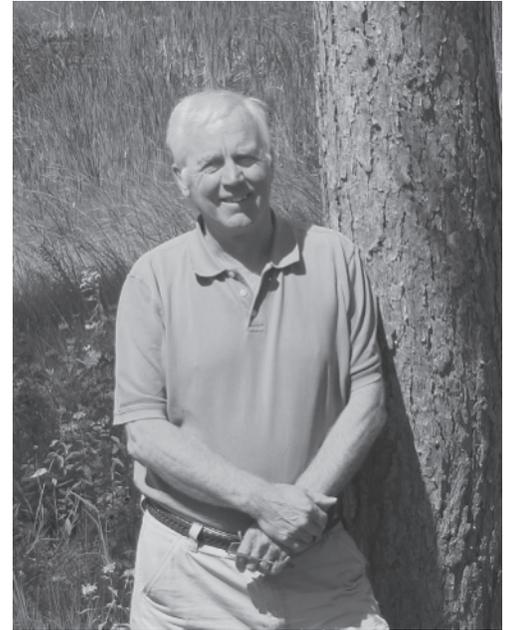
Incidentally, how many of you grew up referring to "partridge" instead of the proper name, ruffed grouse? I'm sure the first time I heard of ruffed grouse was from those people from "the cities." And my thoughts haven't changed much. But I digress.

Our lifestyle in retirement simply does not allow for a large hunting dog. Now we have grand puppies, currently two yellow labs. Sometimes a grand puppy stays with us for a few weeks during the fall. Perfect! Other times I go with our son, or a son-in-law, and a grand

puppy. That works too, if for no other reason than I never was a good shot.

The fall colors are such a treat. A bright sun on red maple leaves is probably my favorite. But then there are the oaks, poplar, ash, and yes, even tamaracks are amazing. So maybe I don't really have a favorite. If you think you have become bored with all this, bring a friend that lives in the middle of a state that is all crop fields and no trees. Then you will witness amazement! I did this recently with two friends that farm in the middle of South Dakota. They had their noses to the car windows like kids going into Disney World!

The Fall Festival, put on by the Friends of Tamarac and Tamarac staff, is a must. The day includes bus tours with an experienced guide, a great lunch (for a small fee), and several outdoor stations featuring experiences that are educational for both kids and adults. Did I mention that all of this (with the exception of lunch if you choose) is FREE? A family outing like this is



hard to beat.

And here's another opportunity. In the fall, we start our education series for kindergartners and third graders. The Friends teach most of these sessions, and we can always use more help as more and more of the surrounding school



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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Vonnice Jacobson, Fran Mattson, Linda Brockmann, Justine Boots, Kelly Blackledge, Nancy Brennan, Janice Bengtson and Nancy Moulden. Design/Layout: 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).

districts are asking to participate. And yes, it is an opportunity to witness the undivided attention these kids bring with them. They spend part of the day making entries in their journals. Because we do have inclement days (weeks?) in northern Minnesota, some activities need to be held indoors. Now, picture 90 third graders sitting on the floor in the Visitor Center trying to learn and journal, and knowing that each of the two bathrooms can accommodate only two kids at once. Havoc perhaps? Hence our Discovery Center project. We've raised \$430,000 but still need some \$170,000 more. We're willing to work hard to raise money, to the point that nearly twenty Friends devoted two days picking up trash after We Fest. You may think you can imagine this, but I'm betting you cannot and wouldn't believe all of the things we see and pick up without being there yourself. My obvious point is that we welcome your pledge to support our efforts.

One last thing: the Toast to Tamarac is on September 27 this year. With great wine tasting, live music, silent auction, raffles and more, the Richwood Winery is the place to be on that Friday. Tickets are \$25.00 or \$30.00 at the door. Our numbers are growing each year, and advanced tickets are available from all our board members and at Central Market.

Now, for all of you who think there's nothing going in the fall, I hope you'll reconsider!

WORKING BEYOND THE WHITE SIGNS



By Neil Powers, Manager, Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge

in the long-term requires that we work beyond refuge boundaries. Often this means developing partnerships and working with others. Partnerships may involve individuals, agencies, and non-profit groups including Friends to expand the capacity of individual entities by joining resources and working cooperatively.

The concept of working beyond the white signs is a metaphor that illustrates the focus of wildlife conservation that occurs outside the boundaries of our National Wildlife Refuges. In this case, the referenced "white sign" is adorned with a "blue goose" and is commonly used to mark the boundary of our National Wildlife Refuges.

Traditionally, wildlife managers worked strictly within the boundaries of the refuge to conserve wildlife populations and habitats. Often times this meant keeping people out to safeguard the critters entrusted to our safe keeping. Conservation through protection and limiting access was appropriate given that many of our refuges were established to protect species in precipitous decline.

While this concept was widely accepted and in many cases successful, wildlife managers understood that the ability to positively influence wildlife populations

Recently, Tamarac entered into a partnership with the American Bird Conservancy that has the potential to support the refuge's habitat management programs for many years. Partnerships like this are significant and extremely beneficial, often assisting with projects that would otherwise not be funded or completed at a much slower pace. Tamarac is also involved in multiple partnerships that support habitat restoration, biology, research and outreach. Partnerships involving the community help us connect people to the refuge through our environmental education program, festivals/events, and someday soon, through construction of the Tamarac Discovery Center.

Partnerships are an important aspect of wildlife conservation and provide opportunities to extend the mission of the refuge beyond its borders. More importantly, partnerships provide opportunities to share resources, and they often accomplish more working collectively than could be accomplished working as individuals.

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR FRIENDS OF TAMARAC MEMBERSHIP TODAY

Throughout the year Friends offers many educational programs for children and adults. For example: hundreds of elementary school children come to Tamarac for a day of discovering nature; master naturalists lead walks through Tamarac's woods describing wildflowers, trees and plants; volunteers lead several photography tours; the Fall Festival, which has no admission fee, is a Friends project; we are a sponsor of the annual Festival of Birds, which brings people from across the nation to Tamarac. Membership dues paid now are good through September 2014. A membership costs \$20 and pays for this newsletter. Please join or renew today and consider joining at the patron, steward, or life member level to support other Friends programs. There is a membership envelope with this newsletter for your convenience. Thank you for supporting Friends of Tamarac NWR!

Tamarac PARTNERS with ABC



One of our newest additions at Tamarac Refuge is Peter Dieser, a Golden-winged Warbler Public Lands Coordinator. He is working for the American Bird Conservancy (ABC), and has an office at Tamarac. His previous work experience includes service as an environmental restoration

technician with Americorps, GIS database management with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, participation in the Hurricane Katrina Relief Effort, and two summers spent working with the Pompeii Archaeological Research Project. Most recently Peter worked as a naturalist at Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center in Lanesboro, MN. Peter has a Master's degree in Natural Resources Science and Management from the University of Minnesota.

From 1966-2010 the golden-winged warbler, a neotropical migratory songbird, has experienced a huge decline in its population. Presently, the American Bird Conservancy has tasked Peter with coordinating and implementing an effort to keep golden-winged warblers in our landscape. It is especially important that Minnesota lead this effort because approximately 57% of the remaining global population is located here. To do this, Peter must help create the type of habitat that

golden-wings like, which is called early successional habitat. That just means a young forest that does not have a dense overstory, but rather is still developing into the thicker, taller forests that we all know and love. Golden-wings nest on the ground in a forest that has an even mix of trees, shrubs, and leafy ground covers.

It is important to have lots of different types of forest in our landscape. Everything from old to young, and both deciduous and coniferous have a place here. It all comes down to promoting biodiversity. We want as much variety in our plant and animal communities as we can get. Though Peter is concentrating his management efforts on creating young forest habitat for the sake of the golden-winged warbler, his goal, as a member of the American Bird Conservancy, is to help create a balance of habitat types in our landscape for the benefit of all species.



SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SUCCESS IN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

by Fran Mattson

The primary focus in the early years at Tamarac was on waterfowl. Presently, it is to maximize biodiversity with emphasis on endangered species and waterfowl maintenance. Today, duck nesting densities are among the highest for the woodland transition zone in Minnesota. Spring surveys indicate 40 pairs of breeding ducks per square mile. The three rivers, 21 lakes, and scores of small wetlands provide ideal habitat for

a multitude of wildlife types, including 53 species of mammals. Tamarac's staff has a continual eye on habitat restoration and maintenance through such methods as utilizing water control structures, prescribed burns, and additional tree plantings, to name just a few of the strategies.

According to Lowell Deede, beaver nearly disappeared in the 1930's due to heavy trapping. They were reintroduced in the late 1930's and, of course, today are quite prolific.

The bald eagle, trumpeter swan, and gray wolf were all on the Endangered Species List and have since been removed. Tamarac now has two breeding wolf packs with a total of about 12 adult wolves. Three pups have been sighted this year. It was not until middle 1980's that wolf tracks were sighted on the refuge. By 1990 Tamarac wolves were raising young. Mange, car collisions and dispersal have kept the wolf population at its present



MY *EXPERIENCE* at TAMARAC

By Rachel Post, Student Conservation Association Intern

birds would run in every direction, trying to dodge the cat, collect some eggs, and hopefully reach their wintering grounds. Only a couple students would end up surviving when windows, nest parasitism, and food poisoning were thrown into the mix. I can still remember the students trying to coax me into telling them what color egg or poker chip would be the “bad” colors for the next round.

Over the past four months, I’ve learned and accomplished so much during my time as the Environmental Education Intern. I helped organize and present activities for thousands of school children, participated in various surveys, and even helped with some maintenance. To say the least, I have had an extremely diverse experience.

When I heard I’d be working with so many students, I didn’t realize how quickly they’d pass through the refuge. In May alone, the total came to be roughly 1,224. Directing the “Hidden Hazards” game was essentially organized chaos. Students pretending to be migrating

Another highlight of my experience was the wildlife surveys. I helped with the Breeding Bird Atlas, the Breeding Bird Survey, and two Loon Surveys. Judy Bell, a resident volunteer, taught me how to recognize birdcalls. Eventually I became exceptional at hearing Golden-winged Warblers and Black and White Warblers, which I affectionately named the hyperventilating bird. I never thought I would become a birder, but now I hope to continue this passion.

As for the Loon Survey, the loons were not cooperative, often hiding until Judy and I were about to leave. On the other hand, the loon banding with the DNR

was a completely different experience. It never occurred to me that loons had the same reaction as deer in headlights. Once a spotlight is on them, they essentially freeze and allow you to drive the boat right up to them.

Some of my favorite experiences had to do with the wildlife, including the skunk that kept approaching Judy and me while we were trying to complete the Loon Survey on Teacracker Trail. Other memorable moments include holding a loon, seeing a couple of wolves, and seeing a bear swim. Of course, the swimming bear was only about 10-20 feet from where Judy and I needed to stop for the Breeding Bird Survey. To say the least, we were talking loudly for those five minutes, hoping the bear would continue to head away from us.

Overall, I had an awesome adventure at Tamarac and will be taking away so many experiences for the future. I’m going to miss everyone here, staff and volunteers. I hope to be able to visit when the new Visitor Center is finally open.

75 years continued

size for an extended period. Currently, there is research being carried out with satellite tracking devices, which will help with management decisions related to the population size maintenance.

In the 1970’s there were two bald eagle nests at Tamarac, now there are approximately 25 active nests producing 20-25 young each year. The trumpeter swan virtually disappeared from Minnesota in the 1880’s. In April of 1987, 21 two-year old swans were released at Tamarac. There are now more than 45 pairs that have produced upwards of 100 cygnets, including a record setting 10 cygnets in one brood. There are over 6000 trumpeter swans in the state as a whole.

Tamarac is a haven for wildlife research on a variety of species, including the ring-

necked duck, trumpeter swan, golden-winged warbler, woodcock, and wolves. Radio telemetry and satellite tracking are major parts of these research projects. Tamarac biologists Wayne Brininger and Lowell Deede are major forces in research and surveys. Local college students and professors are also involved. Golden-winged warblers are a priority species in bird conservation in this region due to a steep decline in their population. Tamarac and forested areas to the east provide habitat for a large portion of the world’s population of this species. Lack of habitat and interbreeding with the blue-winged warbler may lead to the disappearance of the golden-winged warbler. This is a high conservation concern, and this research will help determine best management practices for promoting healthy populations in the

future.

There is also a variety of additional biology projects that volunteers assist with including breeding bird surveys for songbirds or monitoring nesting success of ducks, loons, grebes, terns, eagles, and swans. There are population surveys for frogs, woodcock, and ruffed grouse. Even middle school students assisted in the woodcock research of Kyle Daly, a Fish and Wildlife Service biology intern.

Seventy-five years of management decisions have helped protect and maintain habitat that is appropriate for diverse populations of wildlife in this pristine refuge. It doesn’t stop with today’s successes. Pages of goals, objectives, and very specific strategies are already in place to guide the vision for tomorrow’s successes.

TAMARAC DISCOVERY CENTER



Here are a few reasons others have donated:

"It is an extremely easy decision to donate some of our treasure once we had spent some time with the kids in the woods. When you experience the joy of the children on a Tamarac adventure you find yourself wanting to be a part of the environmental education program. The need for shelter from our Minnesota weather at times is evident when they are trying to eat lunch on a tarp or squashed into the visitor center hallway or writing journal entries in the rain. The Discovery Center is a well thought out asset that would help us achieve our goal of connecting children with nature in a very effective manner." - John and Vonnie Jacobson

The Friends of Tamarac have raised over 80% of the funds to build this energy-efficient, versatile facility. We need your help to complete our goal and continue to make meaningful connections with people and nature. Make a donation today and leave a conservation legacy. Donations can be mailed to Friends of Tamarac, PO Box 1818, Detroit Lakes, MN 56502 or visit www.tamaracfriends.org/discovery-center/ to make an on-line donation.

"After seeing the excitement and intensity of interest on the face of the kids, it was a very easy decision to make and a most satisfying one." - Bill & Deb Wickum

"As a former teacher, I have been involved in the education programs held at Tamarac. They are outstanding. Building a center for kids surely will enhance the programs." - Mark Giehl

Dear Tamarac Helpers,

Thank you for letting us come. I liked the part when we got to go on the photo safari. We got to take some pictures. I liked the part when we got to plant trees. We got to plant a lot of trees. I liked the game what the trees need because we got to have the red chips as fire.

Your Friend in Nature,
Nevaeh
Frazee 1st Grade,
Mrs. LaFreniere's Class



For several years, my kindergarten students have enjoyed the beauty of Tamarac in the fall, winter, and spring. Each year, the staff and volunteers at Tamarac have expanded and improved upon their environmental education offerings, never disappointing myself or my students. The children absolutely fall in love with Tamarac! They come to know the instructors by name and look forward to every visit. They are able to learn about nature first hand, utilizing their five senses. The learning that occurs just from BEING in the natural setting is incredible and cannot be duplicated in any school setting. We have experienced learning activities in all kinds of environments at Tamarac, including the visitor center, the maintenance shop, and the Chippewa Picnic area. Because these places were not designed to



handle school groups, we have struggled with adequate restroom and eating spaces and have been forced to cancel visits due to inclement weather. The Discovery Center would provide a place for students to continue to learn in nature's classroom, while still providing for their basic needs. It would be a place to seek shelter from the elements, eliminating the need to cancel field trips. Having a facility that has the capacity to accommodate and provide for school groups on Tamarac Refuge would be combining the best of both worlds! I look forward to many more years of learning alongside my students at the Discovery Center!



Cecilia Brininger
Kindergarten Teacher
Ogema Elementary

Tamarac's 2013 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Nancy Brennan began volunteering in 2010 by assisting with the Ecological Classification System project. With her botany background, it was a perfect fit. She worked alongside our expert contractor in the field

mapping, collecting, and recording data on Tamarac's plant species. Having spent time working with children as a librarian, she soon shared her love of nature with local children by becoming a member of our environmental education team. She has guided students as they explore through the lens of a camera, as they "meet" trees on a hike, or as they document their findings in a mini bio-blitz. During the last couple of summers, visitors have enjoyed her passion for plants by attending her Wildflower Walks and Tree Treks. Nancy is a certified master naturalist and is always willing to enhance her skills and knowledge by attending workshops. She is a Friends board member and is active on several committees including the Newsletter, Naturalist, and she chairs this year's Fall Festival committee. She has also been very involved with the Discovery Center Capital Campaign. Last spring she went above and beyond by assisting the gift shop committee in preparation for two very important events--the Festival of Birds and National Trails Day. Nancy's dedication to the refuge is amazing!

THANKS

to the tireless crew of 22 volunteers on Sunday and 20 volunteers on Monday that gave 280 hours to raise money by cleaning up the grounds after We Fest.



VOLUNTEERS *Celebrate* ACCOMPLISHMENTS



The annual volunteer recognition picnic was held on August 22. Sixty-five volunteers, staff, friends and family came out to enjoy a 70's retro party. It was fun to change things up a bit from our Luau theme of the past several years. Music of that time brought back memories of younger days, and even a few hippies showed up! Spanky's provided a delicious meal including an "exclusive" juneberry ice cream for dessert. Refuge manager Neil Powers welcomed everyone and highlighted special accomplishments from the past year. Awards were then presented to those who had reached key milestones

(see complete list below). Betty Gunderson, Jeanine Ehnert, Luverne Ehnert, Linda Brockmann and Craig Lewis were presented the Assistant Director's Award for reaching 500 hours of service. The Director's Award was presented to Nancy Brennan for reaching 1000 hours. Denis Mudderman was also recognized for his achievement of 10,000 hours! Special recognition was given to Harry Halvorson for leading the AIS team while Craig Lewis has been on leave. The North Country Trail Crew was also recognized for their many hours of constructing the trail and co-hosting the National Trails

Day Event. To conclude the evening, Luverne and Jeanine Ehnert presented the 2013 Volunteer of the Year Award to Nancy Brennan.

In 2013, 166 volunteers contributed 97,780 hours to the refuge. That's amazing. Thanks so much for sharing your talents with Tamarac. Whether you greet visitors, teach children, count loons, mow our trails, pick up trash, plan and host events, you are much appreciated. You are great ambassadors for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

25 hours

Buggie Anderson
Judy Leitheiser
Ruth Bergquist
Bob Brockmann
Kent Carlson
Sandy Holbrook
Jamie Kleine
Janice Jenson
Sandie Boyer
John Backes

50 hours

Sue Braun (25)
Bill Wickum (25)
Lowell Kramer
David Mueller
Jim Eisele
Ed Gunderson
Roger Hanson
Jeri Rakness
Karen Stenberg

100 hours

Jim DuBay
Harry Halvorson
Jim Rakness (25,50,100)
Jeri Rakness (25,50,100)
John LaFond
Gary Narum

200 hours

Bruce Besse
Cathie Ferguson
Steve Furuseth
Ray Vlasak

300 hours

Art Bakker
Donna Dustin

400 hours

Justine Boots
Shirley Read
Steve Sox (25,50,100,200,300)
Judy Bell (25,50,100,200,300)

500 hours

Betty Gunderson (300,400)
Jeanine Ehnert
Luverne Ehnert
Linda Brockmann

800 hours

Craig Lewis
(200,300,400,500, 600,700)

1000 hours

Nancy Brennan (800,900)

10,000 hours

Denis Mudderman



MEET RESIDENT VOLUNTEER JUDY BELL

roadsides free of litter. She has also been working on a birding hotspot brochure for the refuge. Judy has accumulated over 400 hours to Tamarac and nearly 5,800 to the refuge system.

Judy grew up in the city of Chicago. As a child, she enjoyed going to the Cubs baseball games for only \$1.00! After high school, she attended Illinois State University majoring in math and secondary education. Her first teaching experience was in the suburb of Arlington Heights. Because she had a way with at-risk kids, she began teaching full-time in that arena.

She then moved to New York and took on substitute teaching jobs but did not like it. In order to teach full-time in NY, you had to have a master's degree. So Judy went to night school at the "old age of 40." She was known as "grandma" by the other graduate students. During the day, she taught full-time in a maximum security juvenile corrections facility for boys. After three years, she moved to Minnesota, and worked at an adult corrections facility where she managed a multi-million dollar grant focusing on literacy and job skills. She taught not only reading, but also welding and woodshop!

After a few years, she again went back to school to obtain her principal's license. She moved to Kasson, MN to become principal of alternative schools for several districts. Her last position was managing the Alternative Education Programs for Rochester Schools, which involved thousands of kids and 12-hour days. She retired from her education career in 2006.

Judy's connection to nature occurred while in girl scouts as a teenager. Going on a camping trip did it for her. She discovered a whole different world outside the city. Later as a young mother, she fell in love with birding while she was "stuck in upstate New York with two babies in diapers and no car." She simply hung up a bird feeder, saw birds she had never seen before, bought a bird ID guide and then binoculars. This took her into the world of birding and led her to become a master bird bander.

Judy also enjoys photography, blogging about her adventures, and her dog Emma. Judy has two sons, a daughter, and five grandchildren. She has been RVing full-time for seven years. Tamarac is her 11th refuge!

Judy came to us in May to spend her summer here as a resident volunteer. She jumped right in to assist with the Festival of Birds and with the super busy month of May when 1000 students invaded the refuge for field trips days! She also assisted with the National Trails Day event in June. Being a skilled and enthusiastic birder, our biologists were excited for her to conduct bird surveys including the Breeding Bird Atlas. She spent long days documenting species displaying breeding behavior while getting to know the refuge up close and personal. Judy also has great interpretive skills and leads wildlife excursions and birding tours. She keeps our office grounds looking good, our information kiosks stocked, and our



WELCOME

to our new Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge gift shop managers Sandie Boyer and Mary Elton from our gift shop committee chair, Sue Braun. We are all looking forward to the shop reopening when the Visitor Center's retrofit is completed.



Come out and enjoy a fall hike on the North Country Trail September 21.

**Saturday September 21 1:00 pm
Autumn Hike**

The North Country National Scenic Trail has arrived on the refuge! Join us as we explore the section from Blackbird Wildlife Drive to the Old Indian Hiking Trail. This hike is approximately 4 miles and will traverse through a mature hardwood forest. Special note; Wearing an article of blaze orange is recommended. Meet at the Pine Lake Parking Area located on Cty. Hwy 29 in the southern part of the refuge. Shuttles will be provided.

**Sunday September 22 2:00 pm
Go Natural with Nutrition**

Join guest presenter Carol Robinson on this first day of autumn for a fun lesson on eating healthy. Whether it be from the wild, your garden or the farmer's market, we can all make good choices and have fun doing it. Learn how you can have fresh greens all winter long, how you can dehydrate the fruits of the season and which wild foods are easy to gather and prepare. Meet at the Chippewa Picnic Area.

**Friday September 27 4:00 – 8:00 pm
at the Richwood Winery
Toast to Tamarac!**

The Friends of Tamarac invite you to their third annual Toast to Tamarac at Richwood Winery. The fundraiser will include wine tasting, appetizers, silent auction, games of chance and live music. Cost is \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Profits from this event will help support the environmental education program at Tamarac which connects children with nature. For more information, contact the Friends of Tamarac at 218-847-2641 ext. 21.

**Sunday September 29 2:00-4:00 pm
Fall Color Nature Photo Safari**

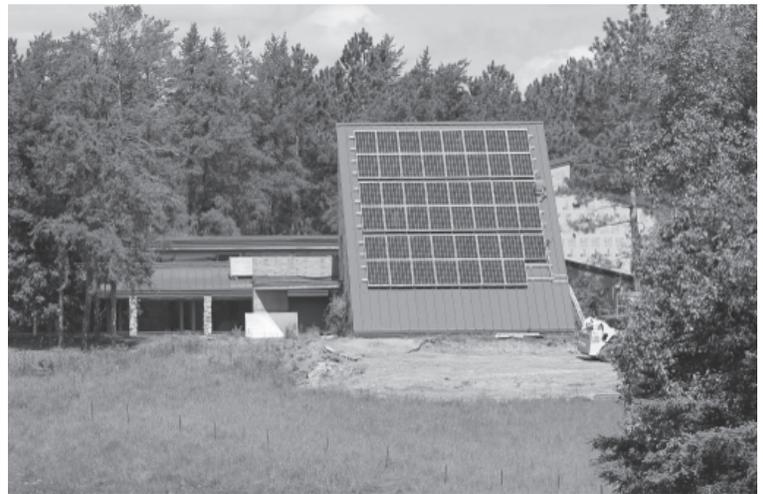
Experience autumn on the refuge through the lens of a camera! With the fall colors nearing their peak, we will travel by car caravan to some very scenic and perhaps less known areas on the refuge. Discover how Tamarac's wildlife and plants prepare for winter. Meet at the Chippewa Picnic Area located 3 miles past the visitor center on County Hwy 26.

**Saturday October 5 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Annual Fall Festival – Celebrating 75 Years**

Spend a day at the settlers' cabins to celebrate Tamarac's 75th Birthday. Venture out on a guided refuge tour to discover Tamarac's past while we look to the future. Become a "refuge manager" on the activity trail and learn about wildlife success stories along the way. View the Annual Photo Contest entries and vote for your favorite. Celebrate with cake in the afternoon. Lunch will be available for sale by the Friends of Tamarac.

Sunday October 20 2:00 pm

Photo Contest Awards Presentation at the Washington Square Mall. All entries will be on display during National Wildlife Refuge Week October 14-20. Cast your vote for People's Choice! On Sunday, ribbons and prizes will be awarded to the winners as well as honorable mentions.



The Tamarac Visitor Center and Office is now fossil fuel free with the most effective insulation system. Geothermal heating and cooling is in place. The solar panels have been installed on the slant roof of the Tamarac Visitor Center. These panels will serve to provide a portion of the electricity used in the building. Another small set of panels have been installed to provide the energy used to heat the water in the building. This Energy Retrofit is nearing completion as scheduled. The staff plans to move back into the office in October. A winter open house will be planned to share all the new energy efficiencies of the building.

**NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS
OF TAMARAC NWR**

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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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MN
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PERMIT NO. 707

LEAF WHEEL

By James Jasken

**Budding birth.
Snowed on,
Rained on,
Wind-blown,
Baked.**

**Leaf-hood proud.
Frosted,
Painted,
Pinched from
Life.**

**Autumn death.
Diving,
Sailing,
Landing,
Still.**

**Silent rest.
Crumbling,
Rotting,
Feeding
Life.**



Learn how to call ducks, meet live eagles and much more at the Fall Festival, Saturday, October 5, 10 - 4. Photo by Ward New.