



WINTER 2014

TAMARAC TRACKS

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"Frost Bite" by Kim Zimmerman

IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING, HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN YOU GET THERE?

By Don Blanding, President of the Board

Kind of a no-brainer huh? Said another way, if you can't measure your objective, how do you know when you're done? For example what measurable benchmarks must be met before I can make this IT application available for providers, patients and families? Fortunately, in my healthcare career, we did this right most every time. Meeting the benchmarks always trumped any arbitrarily set target completion dates.

This axiom was critical in the recent planning retreat for your Board of Directors, held at Maplelag Resort, and facilitated by Cyndi Anderson of Mosaic Consulting. Cyndi reminded us that the Friends of Tamarac (FOT) is much different than it was five years ago, and that we could do well to establish measurable objectives for the next five years.

Some of us (well, maybe just me) hadn't previously considered the difference between FOT members and volunteers. Of course it's true that we have many more paying members than we do active volunteers. After itemizing some 12

objectives for the planning horizon, we agreed that adding both members and volunteers is critical. We can expect our needs to grow once the Discovery Center is operational. Financial stability was also high on our priority list; this was not surprising given the Discovery Center and a closed bookstore / gift shop during the retrofit of the Visitor Center.

Cyndi pointed out that (1) we have too many committees (duh?), and (2) we had also created opportunities for communication problems between and among these committees. In response to these observations, we eliminated some committees and combined others. For example we combined the newsletter, website, publicity, and social media committees in that they share the common objective of our connections to the public. We did recognize that our financial committee needs to more carefully address such things as financial reporting and providing accurate data for preparing tax returns. Cyndi also helped us realize that we need to look more closely at how other not-for-profits organize instead of creating committees to address the initiative du jour.



Our annual meeting followed, featuring the famous Maplelag walleye. We had 56 people for dinner, a new attendance record. During the meeting it was pointed out that our work and some amazing contributions from the larger community that have made the Discovery Center a reality, place us as leaders at the national level. We should all take unfettered pride in this effort. In previous columns, I cited "payback time" as my motivation to get involved at Tamarac. As I finish this, my last president's letter, you will find six other reasons for supporting Tamarac, and yes, they've all been here.



Become a Friend

- Membership: \$20
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- Life Member: \$500



Friends of Tamarac NWR

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

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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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Kelly Blackledge, Tamarac Visitor Services	Kelly_Blackledge@fws.gov	218-844-1752

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

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CHALLENGES ON THE **HORIZON**

By Neil Powers, Manager, Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge



During the past few years, the Congressional appropriations process that ultimately determines our national budget has popularized the phrases “budget sequestration” and “continuing resolution” making their use commonplace within media and social circles. It seems we are all tied directly or indirectly to how the budget process plays out, and this year it appears that we will again be facing continuing resolutions and budget sequestration. For agencies like the US Fish & Wildlife Service, whose budget is tied directly to the Congressional appropriations process, this will mean challenging times ahead.

Budget sequestration is a phrase used to describe automatic budget cuts to our federal government budget as the result of the passage of the Budget Control Act

of 2011. The topics of fiscal policy and national priorities are certainly nothing new, but implementation of recent decisions is having an impact at our local level. The current financial outlook for the next several years will make implementation of programs and completion of projects increasingly challenging for Tamarac Refuge, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and many other federal government agencies. The measure of impacts associated with sequestration is multiplicative and involves annual budget cuts. Last year, the budget reduction for the US Fish and Wildlife Service was 6.8%, and this year’s forecast reduction is an additional 5.2%.

At face value, a potential 12% reduction may not seem significant until you begin to examine the tangible impacts at the local level. A great example is Tamarac’s deputy project leader position, which has been vacant since April 2012 and will likely remain vacant at least for the remainder of this fiscal year and longer given the predicted national budget climate. This position and associated duties are critical for our refuge operations and management of programs. As a result we have shifted these duties to other staff, adding to the workload of others and reprioritizing the work of all staff to meet available staffing and funding resources. Often this approach means important work won’t be accomplished or must be postponed. For example, Tamarac will have to limit noxious weed control (specifically

purple loosestrife), wetland restorations, and administrative trail maintenance. Tamarac is one of many stations dealing with similar situations as the number of vacant positions agency-wide, resulting from budget shortfalls, continues to rise.

The impacts are real and challenging, but so far Tamarac has been able to manage many of the direct impacts of the first round of budget sequestration cuts by pre-positioning ourselves to take advantage of opportunities and proactively seeking partnerships as well as competing for available grant funding. We are also incredibly fortunate to have dedicated volunteers and Friends who help buffer the effects of budget shortfalls and are willing to meet many of the refuge’s needs. Looking forward, however, the reality is that we will not be able to meet all of our commitments or the expectations of the public if further cuts are implemented.

The years ahead will likely be filled with several unknowns as we continue to deal with political upheaval, threatened furlough, and potential for another government shutdown. However, I also see a future for Tamarac that will still provide some opportunities for the refuge and its programs to grow in spite of shrinking budgets. It will be up to all of us to make the most of those opportunities now and in the future.

FRIENDS OF TAMARAC MEMBERS AND DONORS

Thanks so much to the many Friends of Tamarac who have renewed their memberships for the coming year and a big **WELCOME** to all our new members. Membership dues pay for this newsletter and support our educational programs, nature walks, photo hikes, and other Friends projects. Our membership year begins in the fall and runs for one year.

This is the list of Memberships paid for this membership year plus new Life Memberships, received as of December 1st. If your name isn’t listed and you aren’t a Life Member, your membership support is needed! If you have any questions, please contact: betty.gunderson@gmail.com. Mail your membership dues to: Friends of Tamarac, 35704 County Hwy. 26, Rochert, MN 56578. If you use the enclosed Discovery Center Campaign envelope, please make a note that your check is for dues. Thank you.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS

New Life Members

Ron and Marlys Carlson
Ro and Kay Grignon
Bill and Nancy Henke

Patrons

Sandie and Joe Boyer
Mark and Sandy Kennedy

New/Renewed Members

Rod and Deanie Bergen
Del and Norma Bergseth
Bruce and Jane Besse
Jordan and Andrea Bonney
John Cornely

Duane and Carol Ann Dahlberg
Luverne and Jeanine Ehnert
Ole and Mary Elton
Cathie Ferguson and Jim DuBay
Cathy and Tom Fritz
Mark Geihl
Rikki and John Given
Sandra Gordon
Paul and Barb Haberman
Harry Halvorson
John Hovdenes
John and Roma Jacoby
Jim and Mary Ann Jasken
Deanna Johnson
Lucy Johnson and Tom Tollefson

Roland and Leona Jordahl
Frank and Peggy Kohoutek
Ray and Nancy Lacine
Del and Luann Larson
Robert Larson
Kark and Henrietta Malchow
David and Janice Millford
Carol and Rod Nord
Jim and Sue Olsen
Jim and Judy Olson
Leif and Marisa Olson
Ruth Olson
John and Margot Peterka
Greg Prairie
James Rakness & Geraldine Angelo-Rakness

Helen Rudy
Jim Sinclair
Kjersen, Andy, Jacob, Hanny and Sam Skatvold
Ruth Solie
Don Stuehm
Diane Thomas
Michael and Denise Warweg
George and Barbara Weatherston
Samantha Weatherston and Paul Rabie
Carolyn Wenger
David and Katherine Wilson

THE WHITETAILS OF TAMARAC



This year's FOT quilt, "The Whitetails of Tamarac" was created by Buggie Anderson, Justine Boots, and MaryAnn Jasken and won by Mary Lou Schmit who noted: "It is already on my guest room bed to be enjoyed by all our friends and family." Mary Lou is the office manager for the Becker County Veterans Service Office and a quilter herself who loves to make wall hangings, table runners, baby and lap quilts. The winning ticket for the delighted owner was drawn from among the 1200 tickets in the raffle fish bowl at the Fall Festival celebration in the Washington Mall

A TOAST TO TAMARAC 2013



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FRIENDS OF
TAMARAC
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A TOAST TO TAMARAC 2013

Silent Auction Contributors - A Toast to Tamarac and Fall Festival

Anderson, Buggie
 Blanding, Don & Carolyn
 Boots, John & Justine
 Boots-Marshall, Jennifer
 Boyer, Sandie
 Braun, Sue
 Becker, Chuck
 Brennan, Nancy
 Brockmann Bob & Linda
 Brown, Pat
 Burke, Kay
 Ehnert, Luverne & Jeanine
 Elton, Mary
 Engbloom, Lana

Flatau, Lois
 Gunderson, Erik
 Jenson, Michele
 Lacina, Nancy
 Larson, Robert
 Lindsay, Jim
 May, Linda
 Mehlhaff, Scott & Chris
 Navara, Jim & Jean
 Nord, Carol and Rod
 Odegaard, Diane
 Olson, Nancy
 Paradise, Marg
 Pechmann, Tracy

Potter, Loren
 Robson, Peter
 Schmidt, Myrna
 Schiffner, Joan
 Seim, Carol
 Sheryak, Linda
 Sigurdson-Powers, Susan
 Sinclair, Jim
 Skarie, Pam
 Smith, Cheryl
 Thompson, Lyn
 Weber, Michael
 Warweg, Julie
 Wickum, Bill

Silent Auction Contributors - Companies / Organizations

Ace Hardware
 America's Best Value Inn
 Barbara's Hair-n-Body Care
 Becker Pet & Garden
 Ben Franklin Crafts
 Best Pets
 Callaway Liquors
 Caulfield's Studio
 China Buffet
 Chinese Dragon
 Country Fields
 Curley's on Cotton Lake
 Curves
 Dairy Queen
 Detroit Lakes Floral/Val's Flowers
 Holiday Gas
 Hotel Shoreham
 Jimmy John's
 La De Da Décor & Design
 Lake Country Bakery

Lakes Liquors
 Lakes Sport Shop
 Lakeshirts
 Logging Camp
 Michael's Furniture & Flooring
 M & H Gasoline Co.
 Menards, Inc
 Miguel's Mexican Grill
 Minnesota Deer Hunters-Smokey
 Hills
 Minnesota Wild
 Morrison Eye Care
 Native Harvest
 Nereson Automotive
 Norby's
 Olivieri's Salons
 Papa Murphy's
 Passage to India
 Penneys
 Perkins Restaurant & Bakery

Plant Connection
 Pride & Joy Homemakers
 Richwood Store
 Richwood Winery
 Price's Fine Jewelry
 Scheels
 Seven Sisters Spirits
 Shooting Star Casino
 Social Cup
 Spanky's Stone Hearth
 Speakeasy Restaurant
 Sunlite Bar & Grill Swansons' Repair,
 Inc
 Tamarac Wildlife Refuge
 Trader Joe's
 Webber Family DL Ford
 White Drug
 Walmart

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THE DISCOVERY CENTER

by Ron Jenson

It is hard to believe that the dream we had three years ago is now becoming a reality! What I am referring to is the construction of the new Discovery Center located just east of the refuge headquarters parking lot. FOT volunteers and the refuge staff could see the need if we were going to truly do the job of educating our youth in the important area of environmental education. But we didn't know if the public held the same view, so the Friends of Tamarac decided to go directly to the public and ask the question. The answer we received was an overwhelming yes, and we were encouraged to pursue our dream. After a year of evaluating the needs and uses of such a facility, we took the step of hiring an architect to draw up the plans. The FOT will build the Discovery Center, and then donate it back to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Since it would finally be their facility, it would have to meet their building codes and energy savings.

We started our fundraising efforts a year ago with \$500,000 as our target. As of Dec. 1st, we have received pledges and cash donations of \$522,000 from our generous corporate donors as well as an unbelievable number of individual gifts. While we thought our goal of \$500,000 would be sufficient to complete this project, we now know that number to be on the

low side. Although we are short, we decided to take a leap of faith and start the project. The final cost of the building as bid was \$587,000 but that did not include architect fees, site evaluations, cost overruns and other miscellaneous charges. Taking that into account, we think the real dollar number to have the building completely paid for is closer to \$640,000. We still have a number of probable donors who will hopefully close that gap. We are pursuing grants that could have an immediate impact, and we have arranged bank financing if needed to help us through the construction stage.

We poured the footings and outer support walls this fall and, we will be in full construction mode come spring. The completion date will be September 1, 2014. The phone has been buzzing from many area school districts that are anxiously waiting to use the new building and to participate in the great environmental programs that are offered. I hope this brings everyone up to date on our Discovery Center. We truly hope that you or someone you know can help us reach our financial goal.

Craig Lewis, a Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge volunteer, has been very active with environmental education, served as the aquatic invasive species team leader and is a leader of the Tamarac Naturalists. Craig is now undergoing cancer treatment and the following piece, which he posted on Facebook on December 17, 2013, shows his unabashed passion for the Discovery Center.

“Help me feel the CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SPIRIT by giving generously to my life’s charity. I ask friends to give to the Discovery Learning Center Project at Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge through the Friends of Tamarac (a tax exempt organization) for which all you donate is deductible on your taxes. The center will provide nature and environmental education for children from Kindergarten through high school in an area stretching from Fargo-Moorhead to Park Rapids and to Mahnommen to Perham and Wadena, covering seven or eight counties. The students don’t just learn, they experience nature and see it in a real setting, in real habitats, in real biomes. Let the Discovery Center be your way to honor my Christmas request instead of giving me materialistic things that I don’t need at this point in my life. The children need your help more...be generous.”

Please use enclosed envelope or donate on-line at www.tamaracfriends.org



FRIENDS MEMBER TAKES **TOP HONORS** IN PHOTO CONTEST

Jim Sinclair took the top honors in Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge's 12th Annual Photography Contest. His photo, Spring Break, was chosen out of 75 entries. It was the top pick for the People's Choice Award as well. This award was determined by public voting during National Wildlife Refuge Week. Nearly 350 people voted. In addition, Jim also placed first in the Wildlife, Scenic and Nature's Abstract categories.

How did Jim get such an exceptional photo? While venturing on the refuge last spring, he spied an otter and jumped out of his vehicle to capture it on camera. He missed the otter but captured something much more than he intended. He decided to shoot the crack in the ice instead, focusing a couple frames on the water as well getting a perfect reflection of the trees.

"I never would have thought about that. It was kind of a lucky

shot," according to Sinclair.

When he got home and uploaded his pictures to his computer, he was clicking through them and his wife, Deanna, said that was a cool shot. Turns out it was the winning photo.

Brian Basham, photographer for the Detroit Lakes Record, Gale Kaas, publisher of the Frazee Forum, and Joe Allen, professional photographer, all returned for another year to judge the entries. The contest consists of five categories including Plant Life, Scenic, Nature's Abstracts, Recreation, and Wildlife.

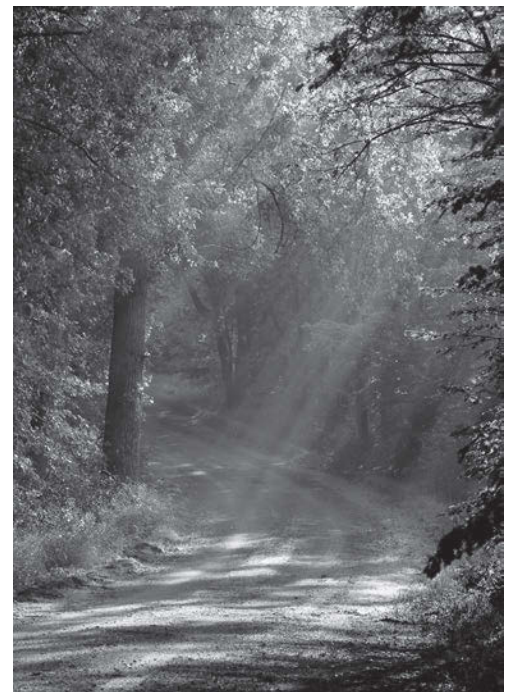
The annual photo contest is sponsored by the Friends of Tamarac and is managed by a contest committee. Winning photos may be viewed on the Friends of Tamarac website at www.tamarac-friends.org.



Life Lessons, Greg Stetz



Cape May Warbler, Lee Kensinger



Pine Lake Peace, Jim Sinclair



First Tamarac Crappie, Jim Sinclair



Egg Lake on Solstice, Thaddeus McCamant



State Bird, Dale Rehder



Standing Guard, Greg Stetz



Morning has Broken,
Lee Kensinger



Autumn Sandhill – Jim Sinclair



My Destiny, Diane Turcotte



Fresh Lady Slipper, Jim Sinclair

WINNERS:

GRAND PRIZE -

Spring Break, Jim Sinclair

MANAGER'S CHOICE

Pine Lake Peace, Jim Sinclair

FRIEND'S CHOICE

Spring Break, Jim Sinclair

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Spring Break, Jim Sinclair

RECREATION

Morning has Broken,
Lee Kensinger
First Tamarac Crappie,
Jim Sinclair
I See, Diane Turcotte

PLANT LIFE

Frost Bite– Kim Zimmerman
Supporting Others,
Kathy Anderson
Yellow Lady's Slipper,
Dale Rehder

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

Fresh Lady Slipper, Jim Sinclair
Purple and Gold, Lee Kensinger
What a Fungi, Tyler Zimmerman

NATURE'S ABSTRACTS

Spring Break, Jim Sinclair
Spider Obstacle Course,
Greg Stetz
Tamarac Sticks, Kim Zimmerman

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

Stone Frog, Lee Kensinger
Rocking Chair View,
Diane Turcotte
Nature's Loom,
Tyler Zimmerman
Sunset, Robert Larson

WILDLIFE

Autumn Sandhill – Jim Sinclair
Cape May Warbler,
Lee Kensinger
Sunrise Perch, Lee Kensinger

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

Life Lessons, Greg Stetz
State Bird, Dale Rehder
Deer with Bird, Helen Hearn
Working Lunch, Kathy Anderson
Loon Family, Diane Turcotte

SCENIC

Pine Lake Peace, Jim Sinclair
Egg Lake on Solstice,
Thaddeus McCamant
My Destiny, Diane Turcotte

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

Standing Guard, Greg Stetz
Old Trees, New Morning,
John Dermody
Standing the Test of Time,
Tyler Zimmerman

YOUTH CATEGORY

Plant Life: Bokeh Berries,
Abi Skinner
Scenic: Light at the End of the Tunnel,
Abi Skinner
Nature's Abstracts: Clarity,
Abi Skinner

TAMARAC'S VINTAGE LAYOUT DUCK BOAT

By John Boots

The old duck boat that now hangs in Tamarac's remodeled Visitor Center is of the specialized type known as a layout boat. It was given to the refuge several years ago, and while it came with stories, the particulars of its history remain a subject for speculation. Its maker is unknown, but the boat seems to have been built in the 1940's, perhaps in Minnesota, and it was certainly used on Minnesota waters. If these facts are accurate, the date and point of origin make the boat fairly unusual. Boats of this style developed on the eastern seaboard sometime shortly after 1935. How the idea traveled so far from its birthplace in the space of a mere decade is one of the unknowns that make this boat so interesting.

The immediate ancestor of the layout boat is the sinkbox, a standard tool of both market hunters and sport shooters for most of the 19th century. The great advantage of the sinkbox was that it allowed the shooter to conceal himself far from shore and beneath the surface of the water. Lying on his back in the coffin shaped box, surrounded by many dozens of decoys, his shotgun across his chest, the hunter was virtually invisible to approaching ducks. Armed with the then-new Remington Model 11 automatic shotgun, a skilled shooter could harvest a hundred ducks for the Baltimore market in a single morning.

The sinkbox was probably the most effective device ever designed for harvesting waterfowl, and its deadly efficiency finally led to its extinction. In 1935, the Department of the Interior, faced with the Great Duck Drought of the 1930's, declared the device illegal. Many of the doubtful practices of the market shooting era--baiting, shining, punt gunning, night shooting--continued even after they were outlawed, but sinkbox hunting was so visible, so impossible to conceal, that the law stuck and the sinkbox era came to an end.

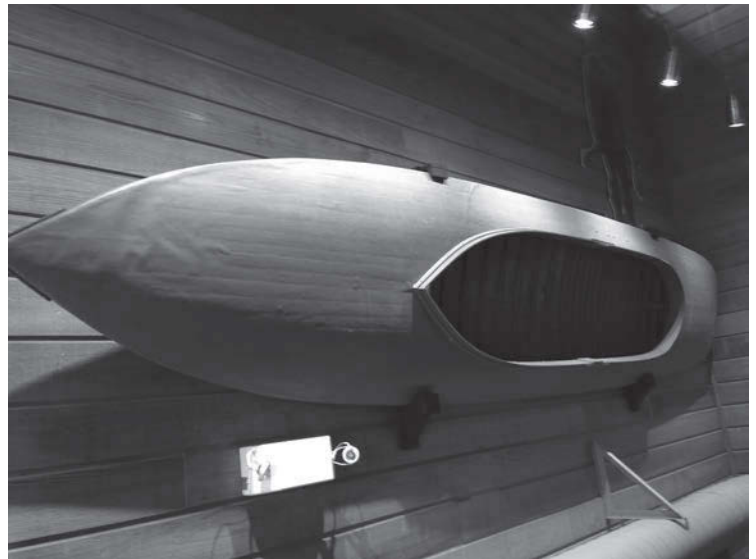
This was the event that spurred the development of the layout duck boat. After 1935, some ingenious Chesapeake waterman took the coffin box, removed the folding wings, the ballast, and the permanent anchor, and then extended the box to something that looked and performed more like an actual boat. He added a cambered deck that met the hull at the waterline, thus producing a boat that cast no shadow. And he added a coaming around the cockpit that would keep out most of the swell. Thus was the layout duck boat born, and the original would have looked much like the boat that hangs in the Visitor Center. Notwithstanding its 16 foot length, Tamarac's layout boat is a one-man vessel. It would, however, have required at least two men to mount a hunt. The clue here is that the boat lacks any means of self-propulsion. There are no oarlocks; the placement of the cockpit makes a single paddle ineffective; and the fact that it is

intended for deepwater hunting makes the push pole useless. The job of the second man is to run the large and seaworthy tender boat that would do most of the hard work. First, it had to provide a tow to the shooting grounds. It had to carry, set out, and pick up the necessary dozens of decoys. It had to retrieve the shot birds. It had to rotate if not rescue the shooters. And at the end of the day it had to get everyone and everything safely back to the home dock. As with the sinkbox then, traditional layout shooting requires a partnership. Also as with the sinkbox, it is an extremely effective method of hunting diving ducks over open water.

In 2013, the layout boat continues to be everywhere legal in the United States. In fact layout hunting is one of the hot new topics in modern waterfowling. Most of the duck hunting books published in the last two decades devote a separate chapter to the layout boat, and there are several manufacturers in the country who produce and market sleek fiberglass versions of the boat.

In Minnesota, however, most of these new boats will find small use. Minnesota law is quite specific regarding the layout boat, and the wording of the law shows that Minnesota legislators are well aware of the kinship with the sinkbox. After defining the sinkbox and declaring its illegality, the 2013 Waterfowl Regulations go on to say that "layout boats are not considered sinkboxes." Perhaps not, but what the law gives with one hand it takes away with the other. Layout boats may be used in Minnesota, but they may NOT be used, as they were intended, to hunt far from shore and over open water. And it is the openness of the water that makes the layout boat so effective. That, after all, is where the late season flights of northern diving ducks raft and rest.

Actually, true open water hunting has been illegal for over a century in Minnesota, the only state in the Union where that is so. The intent of this long-standing law, of course, is clear: Minnesota has wanted, and still wants, to prevent the harassment of late-arriving duck, in order to keep them in the state for as long as possible before the final freeze-up. Given that fact, the builder and owner of this boat should have known what Minnesota legislators and game managers



had known for much longer, namely that this layout boat may be the quintessential vessel for the Minnesota bluebill hunter--but only if he is willing to cheat a bit.

As it turns out, however, the owners of this boat were apparently NOT willing to cheat. The evidence for that lies in the early modifications they made in the boat's design. When it was new, the boat would have looked much as it looks now: a classic eastern seaboard layout boat. When it arrived at Tamarac seventy years later, it once again looked the same way. The difference is that the old boat carried in its fabric the marks of its history. Those marks showed that its early owners had decided that they wanted or needed a different kind of duck boat. To that end, they made additions. Specifically, they applied keel strips under the hull so it would track under power; they installed oarlocks; they added an over-the-side transom for an outboard motor; and they built brackets around the cockpit for a roll-up blind. To put this differently, they traded their open-water layout boat for a more conventional small-water marsh boat.

When the boat arrived at Tamarac in 2010, the oarlocks and the outboard transom had long since rotted away. The rusted fasteners remained, however, and the marks on the hull told their story. The fact that the added fixtures had so completely deteriorated suggests that they were added fairly early in the boat's history. Thus, although there may once have been a conflict between Minnesota law and the intentions of the boat's designer, that conflict was resolved by the intentions and actions of an early owner. It seems, then, that Tamarac's old duck boat lived a life that was not just long and useful, but legal as well.

Special thanks to the family that donated this treasure.

VOLUNTEER VIBES

2013's Top 10 Reasons Our Volunteers Rock!

#10 Connie Carlson, Jim DuBay and Cathie Ferguson completed Aquatic Invasive Species Inspector training and became part of the AIS education team.

#9 A small but hardy group braved the cold and bud-capped thousands of jack pine seedlings planted to enhance wildlife habitat. Caps will prevent deer from browsing the tree tops.

#8 The environmental education team donated over 1500 hours teaching over 3000 children about wildlife conservation.

#7 The Friends' naturalist committee contributed significantly to our interpretive program this past season by presenting family friendly events including: Wildflower Walks, Tree Treks, Project Noah Adventures, Wild Wednesdays, Insect Adventures and more!

#6 We had two awesome resident volunteers and one energetic intern: Judy Bell, Steve Sox, and Rachel Post. Judy contributed significantly to the wildlife program by completing breeding bird surveys. She led wildlife excursions, kept the refuge tidy through litter pick-up and painted many sign posts. Steve mowed our public accesses and historical sites providing safe and inviting areas for our visitors. He assisted with maintenance projects, litter pick-up and guided wildlife excursions. Rachel

managed our spring environmental education program, assisted Judy with surveys and presented interpretive programs. All three contributed a combined total of 1478 hours.

#5 Rick Pechmann, Nancy Brennan, Connie Carlson, and Ron Jenson participated in the "Story Land" interactive exhibit at White Earth Tribal Headquarters; hosting over 300 children in March. They presented wildlife stories and activities.

#4 Eighteen crew members from the Laurentian Lakes Chapter donated over 1000 hours in the construction of 14 miles of the North Country National Scenic Trail. Refuge volunteers and the NCT folks co-hosted a wonderful June event to celebrate National Trails Day and our 75th Anniversary.

#3 Nancy Brennan was named Volunteer of the Year and also received the Director's Award for reaching the 1000 hours.

#2 Due to the government shutdown, the annual Fall Festival was cancelled. But leave it to a group of dedicated Friends – they hosted a mini-festival at the mall, which included children's activities, photo contest display, puppet shows, sales booth, cake, and more.

#1 We appreciate our volunteers' unwavering dedication to fulfilling the refuge's mission of caring for wildlife and wildlife habitats for future generations. Our volunteers donated over 9780 hours; what an awesome group to work with!

Wanted: Environmental Educators and Assistants If you enjoy working with kids in the outdoors, come join us! Training is provided. Most volunteers start by shadowing activities.

Visitor Center Hosts- Work in our newly renovated visitor center! Shifts are 4 hours minimum mid-May through mid-October. Duties include answering questions about the refuge, gift shop sales, answering the phone, etc.

Aquatic Invasive Species Educators -most shifts are weekends. Why not spend a beautiful morning or afternoon at one of our lake accesses while visiting with boaters about protecting our lakes.

This is your chance to share your knowledge of the nature of Tamarac.



JOIN OUR TEAM!

If you are interested in volunteering at Tamarac, contact Janice Bengtson at Janice_Bengtson@fws.gov or 218-844-1756. Check www.tamaracfriends.org for specific job descriptions.

**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



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“Spring Break” by Jim Sinclair