



SPRING 2015

TAMARAC TRACKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF TAMARAC NWR



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Grouse chick photo by Lee Kensinger

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Ron Jenson, President of the Board

I have had the distinct pleasure of being involved with the Friends of Tamarac for over nine years, and what a ride it has been. Our group has grown from an 8 member board to 17 active members and has gone to a more committee structured organization. We have 12 committees that are currently acting on our goals and objectives with still more work to be accomplished. We are recognized on the regional and national levels for our dedicated intensity about connecting children with nature. A number of us have attended national and regional meetings to further our knowledge of the Fish and Wildlife Service and also find out how other Friends groups function. We have held seminars on the regional level and have visited other refuges on an informal basis. The level of our Friends group expertise has been recognized to the extent that Neil and I were asked to serve on a national mentoring team for a three year term. I write this information in an attempt to encourage you to take a serious look at becoming an active member of our Friends group. With the exception of some of our retired educators, the majority of our volunteers come from totally unrelated employment backgrounds. The future and growth of the Friends of Tamarac is dependent on expanding our volunteer base. If you interpret this article to be



a recruitment pitch, I have accomplished my goal! There is nothing like meeting new people, being outdoors, and seeing a child “connect with nature.” Give us a look because I know we can find something you will enjoy. I did!



Become a Friend

Membership: \$20

Patron: \$100

Steward: \$250

Life Member: \$500



Friends of Tamarac NWR

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Website: www.tamaracfriends.org | E-mail: info@tamaracfriends.org | Find us on Facebook
The Friends of Tamarac NWR is a 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to facilitate activities and programs that interpret, protect and restore the natural and cultural resources of the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge.

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Term Expires

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Vonnie Jacobson, Fran Mattson, Linda Brockmann, Justine Boots, Kelly Blackledge, Nancy Brennan, Janice Bengtson, Denise Warweg. Layout and design by Angie Pfaff (Loud Media)
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FIRE IS YOUR FRIENDSOMETIMES?

By Neil Powers, Manager, Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge



Spring is upon us, and winter's retreat is now inevitable. The small marsh outside my office window is ice-free and the Trumpeter swans and Canada geese that have been "camped out" on the ice for the past month waiting for spring's thaw have begun their courtship rituals in earnest. The dry spring will make this marsh a prized location to nest and raise young.

Spring also signals a transition of sorts for refuge staff as weather conditions permit extended outdoor activities and opportunities to implement planning efforts that have laid dormant over the winter. Habitat management actions like prescribed fire become important as the timing of these activities is critical to achieving the best results and early spring presents a prime window of opportunity. Prescribed fire is used to mimic naturally occurring events but in a much more controlled setting. Tamarac typically treats around 500 acres annually, focusing on the improvement of habitats for a variety of wildlife species including waterfowl and a host of forest-dwelling migratory bird species like the golden-winged warbler.

Habitats treated are dependent on fire as a source of disturbance that maintains healthy plant populations which in turn, sustain quality habitat for wildlife. These plant species and the wildlife they support are evolutionarily connected and without fire, we would see a gradual shift in historic plant composition and even more

drastically, a potential loss of some wildlife species.

Prescribed fires are implemented under planning protocols that require specific staffing and equipment resources as well as appropriate weather conditions that are most likely to achieve the desired results. In many cases, prescribed fire in the forest requires enough moisture to prevent catastrophic events that cause significant damage to those species we are trying to benefit, yet dry enough to permit fire to carry and meet our goals. It's a balancing act that requires experience and an understanding of fire ecology.

Dry conditions this spring have curtailed most prescribed fire activities as many fire crews have had to focus their attention on suppressing the numerous wildfires around the state. With a little luck and some much needed moisture in the forest, we will be able to accomplish some of our prescribed fire goals this spring.

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 2014 and April 2015.

New Life Members

Nancy and Les Brennan
Heather Hundt and Shawn Goodchild
Ray and Lynette Vlasak

Patron

Damien Society
Walter and Harriet Johnson
James and Jan Stewart

Annual Memberships and Donations

Mary Aasness
Larry and Becky Aarestad
Dick and Renee Alsop
Dennis and Monica Arens
Darrell Bauder
Ruth Bergquist
Charlie and Kay Burke

Dennis and Sherry Capistran
Jarrod and Darlene Christen
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Mark and Mary Green
Dave and Betty Gunderson
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Judy Johnson
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Mary Kuhlberg
Robert Larson

Donna Lewis
Howard and Kay Lohman
Robert Louiseau and Lynn Durward
Karl and Henrietta Malchow
Dennis and Joanne McCarl
David and Janice Millford
Rod and Carol Nord
James and Susan Olsen
Jim and Judy Olson
Tim and Kathy Olson
Michael Orchard and Jackie Goodkin
Tim Powers and Susan Sigurdson
Dave and Janine Schneider
Walter Sizer
Ray and Lynette Vlasak
Samantha Weatherston and Paul Rabie

LOWELL DEEDE IS RETIRING

By Denise Warweg



May 22, 2015 will be Lowell's last day in the office/field at Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge after serving 38 years and four months. If you combine that with 1 year and 8 months of sick leave he never used, he has 40 years with the USFWS (US Fish and Wildlife Service). Lowell is a dedicated employee and has made significant discoveries and contributions during his years of service. Lowell is fascinating to listen to as he tells the stories of his findings and experiences in his work.

Lowell was born and raised on a dairy farm in Suring, Wisconsin (near Green Bay). He said, "I loved to hunt, fish and hike, and didn't like milking so much." (He also said he is a Packer fan, but we won't hold that against him.) Lowell went to the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point and graduated with Bachelor degrees in Wildlife Management, Fishery Management and Biology, a triple major. Lowell became eligible for work study in 1974. He was hired at the Benson Wetland Management District and worked there for two summers. He was then hired in Jamestown ND at the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center in the summer of 1976. As a Biological Technician, he spent three summers in Manitoba, Canada. Lowell made a scientific discovery while working the Canvasback Study that no one else had ever made. The discovery was that Canvasback adults will lay their first clutch, and if that is destroyed they can re-nest at least two additional times. During that period, he also went to La Crosse WI and banded Canvasbacks on the Mississippi River. Thousands of birds were banded.

Lowell's first full-time job was in Fergus Falls in 1978. This was during the time of the Bicentennial Land Heritage Program. President Ford had dedicated a significant amount of dollars to the Fish and Wildlife Service for visitor centers, biologists, and increase in staffing



to help achieve better data collection and the management of refuges within the Fish and Wildlife System. In 1981 Lowell moved to the Wetland District in Detroit Lakes and stayed there till 1983. During his time at the Wetlands office he helped with planting of native grasses, WPA habitat restoration, helped with new land acquisitions and re-seeding. 1983-1985 Lowell was at DeSoto NWR in western Iowa. He helped with the Farming Program and was the Farm Manager there. Labor Day 1985 Lowell moved to Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge and has been there for 29½ years. This is the longest tenure of any permanent employee at Tamarac. He says, "It's a great place, a neat place to be able to work."

Some of the highlights of Lowell's time at Tamarac have been...

Working with private landowners to restore wetlands. We have continued the program and are one of the top restoration districts in the state, region and even nationally. Lowell says, "I can't take credit for all that success, but I was there in the beginning." Lowell says, "When I first came on board, we had eight bald eagle's nests. It has increased to the low thirties now. When it went to twelve, I thought we were saturated. Then it went to sixteen. Then it went to twenty! And it kept on growing! It has reached a plateau now. There are still new nests but it is mainly because some of the existing nesting trees have blown down and new nests have to be constructed." The trumpeter swan reintroduction program in 1987. Lowell remembers going to Fargo with an old stake-bed truck to pick up some of the swans that were to be released on the refuge. Lowell has enjoyed seeing the refuge go from having sporadic timber wolf sightings, to evidence of their presence being here; from tracks and scat, to confirming we do have a pack with one denning site that was successful. That then developed into two confirmed packs producing pups on the refuge. Lowell did a lot of waterfowl banding. They had great success banding mallards and wood ducks during the early years. We banded over 400 ring-necks one year and got scolded by the Regional Office; did it without authorization just to prove we could be successful. With Tamarac having the northern part on the White Earth Indian



Reservation, Lowell has enjoyed working with tribal members, especially coordinating the trapping, leeching, and ricing programs. He has a sense of satisfaction that we have a positive working relationship, and that he has been able to contribute to that relationship. Lowell has also done law enforcement, fire fighting - both prescribed burns and wildfires, and coordinated the Youth Conservation Corp program (where the young people love him).

In Lowell's retirement, he plans to keep working at his second job at Walmart for awhile. He hoped to hike the Appalachian Trail in April of the year he retired, but may hike sections of the North Country Trail instead. (The AP takes five months to hike.) He is looking forward to spending time with family at a family reunion this July in Wisconsin. He would like to go white water rafting down the Colorado River. Also, on his "bucket list" is doing 49 state high point hikes. He has already done 34 states which includes the Minnesota Eagle Mountain north of Grand Marais. He would like to go to the Kentucky Derby and the Super Bowl. When he climbed Kilimanjaro, he met new friends from Australia and he hopes to visit them. Maybe travel to China, Japan, and South America. Possibly a trip back to Africa for an evening safari. Also on Lowell's heart are the threats to the National Wildlife System and other Federal lands. He is especially concerned about people wanting to take federal lands, putting them in private hands. He would like to be able to continue to explore, photograph and watch wildlife within the public lands of the United States. This is an American birthright that should not be compromised. Public lands are so inspiring; do not take them from us!

I hope that many of you will get to talk with Lowell and hear more of his discoveries and stories from his experiences.

BIRD FESTIVAL TIME AGAIN: May 14-17

By Sue Braun

Some exciting changes this year. The headquarters and registration are at the Detroit Mountain Recreation Area Lodge. At Tamarac and around our region, spring migration is underway. The Western Grebe is our theme bird for 2015.

Tamarac is especially excited to be part of the 18th Annual Festival of Birds. We are a featured destination for Friday's events. The Friends organization members are serving lunch featuring turkey sandwiches, wild rice salad, veggies, a dessert, and beverage.

As the program book for the Bird Festival says, birders "will visit our pristine woodland." Many of the birders will be watching for warblers, of which we host 25 species. Within the 43,000 acres of refuge, the opportunities to see wildlife and especially birds are varied. To make sure that visitors are in the right place at

the right time, a wildlife biologist will be available on the Tamarac tour through the pines and hardwood forests, lakes, marshes, and bogs to find that "life list" bird.

Birds that will be key players in the Friday theatre of woodlands will include American woodcock, scarlet tanagers, rose-breasted grosbeak, warblers, vireos, common loons, trumpeter swans, nesting bald eagles, nesting ospreys, and ruffed grouse. A stop will be made at the visitor center where there is always plenty of action at the busy bird feeders. There will be an opportunity to explore the natural history exhibits and to have lunch.

Other highlights of the 2015 Festival of Birds include a book signing by Bob Janssen. His new book is "Birds of Minnesota State Parks." There will also be a presentation

and book signing by authors, Carrol Henderson and Paul Baicich. Their new book is entitled "Feeding Wild Birds in America: A Story of Wild Birds, Innovation and Conservation." These books will be available in the gift shop of the Tamarac Visitor Center and at the Birder's Bazaar on Saturday. Also on the schedule are free workshops "Bees with Bryan" by Bryan Bishop, "Southern Wings" with Carrol Henderson and nature hikes at the Detroit Mountain. Professional photographer Melissa Groo will make the keynote presentation "The Fine Art of Nature Photography."

If you are interested in attending you can register online for any and all of the events at www.VisitDetroitLakes.com. Early Bird registration is May 1, 2015

SPRING SPOTLIGHT: RUFFED GROUSE BY EMILY BROICH

It's early spring; winter has given in. Brisk mornings ease into the gentle warmth of the rising sun. In the still air, a faint drumming can be heard. We pause as if to listen more closely, but the drumming is replaced with stillness. Then a few minutes later, we hear it again. What we dismissed for a moment as the sound of a distant sputtering engine, we can be sure is the drumming of the male ruffed grouse!

In the stillness of a spring morning, ruffed grouse can be heard drumming from up to a quarter-mile away. This low drumming sound, produced by a quick series of rapidly increasing wingbeats, announces his territory and signals his location to females ready to begin nesting. The male grouse performs his drumming

display on a fallen log with adequate overhead cover to protect against aerial predators. He may return to this carefully selected log spring after spring. True to their name, males show off a fan-shaped tail and a thick ruff of neck feathers during courtship. Ruffed grouse are ground nesters. Hens lay 10-14 eggs and assume the sole parenting role.

Young stands of aspen and early successional forest provide ideal habitat for the ruffed grouse. Aspen buds and catkins are a main food source, and the densely growing trees offer protection from predators such as hawks that can't maneuver in such tight quarters.

Ruffed grouse experience population cycles of roughly ten years in length. Numbers decline every ten years or so,

and the population slowly rebuilds itself the following ten. Grouse surveys or drumming counts coordinated with the Minnesota DNR help to monitor population trends over time for this important game bird. Even though Pennsylvania claims the ruffed grouse as its state bird, Minnesota is a top-harvesting state. On average, more than 500,000 birds are harvested annually in the state, with more than one million birds harvested in years of cyclic peak.

Good places to hear grouse drumming on the refuge include the Old Indian Trail, Chippewa Picnic Area trail, and the North Country Trail west from the wildlife drive. Be sure to take some time to listen to this sign of spring from deep within the forest.

CELEBRATE THE TAMARAC DISCOVERY CENTER

The Tamarac Discovery Center is now complete and we're looking forward to using it through the summer as well as kick off the next school year's outdoor adventures. This education building was completed with donations to the Friends of Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge, a non-profit partner supporting refuge activities.

We'd like to invite you to the Grand Opening on Saturday, June 27 from 10:00am to 3:00pm. There will be a short presentation and ribbon cutting at 10:30am with tours, refreshments and activity stations throughout the day. I hope you'll join us in celebrating this wonderful new feature for our community, built by our community.



Glimpses from the
**WILDLIFE
PUPPET SHOW**
FOT Mall Event
March 28



After Connie Carlson's Puppet Show, young explorers talk about the return of monarch butterflies to Tamarac NWR. When will they return from the forests of Mexico?

TECHNOLOGY IN THE OUTDOORS

Recent studies indicate that while young people are increasingly concerned about their environment, they also feel more and more disconnected from it. Technology can help young people “plug into nature” by empowering them to observe and collect data about their local environments. During the Tamarac Adventures for third graders, students get off the path and into nature while learning how to use GPS (Global Positioning Systems), an important tool in conservation. GPS is a technology that communicates with satellites to

pinpoint specific locations on Earth. Biologists use it to map wildlife territories, document nesting site locations, re-locate water quality testing sites annually, and more.

Learning how to use scientific tools and practicing with them in the field addresses graduation standards. Since we have enough units for each student to use their own it also creates an opportunity for them to make inquiries independently. Using some technology as part of the outdoor programming seems to engage students that might not otherwise enjoy hunting, fishing or spending time in nature. Technology is one of many methods that help a child connect with nature.



Not all of Tamarac's animals migrate. Here a youngster examines a gray squirrel puppet and its favorite winter food, an acorn.



Three little girls watch as “four little speckled frogs sat on a great big log eating the most delicious bugs – yum, yum!”

EMILY BROICH,

Student Conservation Association Intern

I grew up in the Northeast, and I had a few surprised expressions as I told family and friends that I was heading to the Midwest for an environmental internship. Yet, I remember a conversation with a past co-worker who vacations and canoes with her husband here for two weeks every year. “You have to get to Minnesota,” she urged. Now that I’m here at Tamarac, stealing glances at lake after lake, I know what she meant.

I have worked with middle and high school students for the past five years as a paraeducator in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

I graduated from University of Pittsburgh where I majored in environmental studies. My lifelong interest in our natural world has led me here as an environmental education intern through Student Conservation Association.

It is a rewarding opportunity to work with the Tamarac Refuge staff and dedicated Friends volunteers to foster positive outdoor experiences for younger students when they are here at the refuge. Forging connections to nature during formative years can help cultivate an appreciation for nature later on. I am fortunate to be a part of that process!



SPOTLIGHT ON CATHIE FERGUSON

by Justine Boots

She is a board member of the Friends of Tamarac, a Master Naturalist, a former teacher, a successful fundraiser for the Discovery Center Project, a tireless member of the team to educate about the dangers of AIS, a fervent believer in the mission of the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge. Meet Cathie Ferguson.

She was born in St. Paul and spent her childhood years in Mounds Park. Exploring the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River, she developed an early appreciation for the wonders that nature has to offer. During her middle school years, she became an avid Campfire Girl where she learned about camping, the culture and history of the woods, and developed a lifelong love of nature. She finished her high school years in West Fargo and four years later received her college degree from MSUM in Business Education and French. She began her long teaching career in Hibbing MN and then devoted twenty years to her students at Fargo South. After she finished her M.Ed degree, she was an elementary school counselor in Fargo for fourteen years. She retired from the Fargo Public Schools eleven years ago but continued to contribute her talents to the school community by accepting requests for her expertise as a long-term substitute teacher. Her admiration for the Tamarac

wilderness goes back to 1992. From her cabin on Round Lake she and her two sons would often visit the refuge during the summers. She became a very active member of the Friends of Tamarac in 2010, and four years later, with more than 500 volunteer hours to her credit, she was chosen “Volunteer of the Month” in July 2014.

Cathie participates in a variety of activities to promote the mission of the refuge. She is part of the Environmental Education programs, which is a natural progression from her years as a classroom teacher to that of an outdoor teacher. She spends most of her summer Saturday mornings with her AIS team, which monitors the east and north accesses of Tamarac Lake. Her mission is to aid and educate fishermen about the dangers of plant/aquatic invasives and to take good care of the lake. She was an important part of Tamarac’s involvement in this year’s “Give to the Max Day.” She is the chairman of the FOT grant writing committee and has been influential in writing more than fifteen grant proposals. As a fundraiser, her most recent success was the February 2015 “Giving Hearts Day.” She wrote the FOT profile and was the administrator for this 24-hour on-line event that with the pre-event donations garnered in excess of \$14,000 for the Discovery Center Project. She emphasizes that since 2008, “Giving Hearts



Day” has provided a platform for charitable contributions by attracting new donors and by raising community awareness about the importance of our shared FOT mission. More information and photos about this event are available on the FOT website at www.tamaracfriends.org. If you missed the chance to donate to the Discovery Center Project, you can still do so by logging on to www.impactgiveback.org.

Cathie Ferguson is a Tamarac Treasure.

**COME TO TAMARAC’S
GIFT SHOP FOR THE
VERY BEST SELECTION OF
NATURE BOOKS!**

VOLUNTEER VIBES

by Janice Bengtson

Happy Spring! It is great to hear the red-winged blackbirds calling, to see the color green and to not feel temperatures below zero! But most of all, it is great to begin another busy field season with you. It won't be long, and there will be hundreds of school children returning for their spring field trips, the visitor center will be welcoming guests, volunteers will be sprucing up the grounds and trails, bird surveys will be conducted, wetlands will be restored in the district, and we will celebrate the Grand Opening of the Discovery Center. Whew! It is an exciting and busy time to say the least. More than ever, we are counting on you to assist us in conserving wildlife and habitat while serving the American people.

Wanted!

Maintenance Volunteer Coordinator- We are looking for a volunteer who is willing to work with our maintenance staff in coordinating projects for maintenance volunteers. This position would require 20-25 hours/week (May- mid-October) and would include recruiting for specific projects, scheduling volunteers, getting materials ready for the project, and reporting back to staff on progress and any issues that may arise. Duties would also include working on assigned projects, which may include mowing. **Maintenance Assistants** – assist with maintenance projects; may include sign installation, painting, mowing using riding lawn mower and trailer to transport. **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! **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. **Visitor Center Hosts** (4 hr shifts) - welcome visitors, answer questions, operate cash register for gift shop sales, answer refuge phone calls, show movie. **Aquatic Invasive Species Educators-** must be available weekend mornings (mostly Saturdays), work in teams on a rotating basis throughout summer. **Recycling Coordinator-** gather recyclables from office and shop areas and haul to recycling center on a regular basis; determine other ways to be more green. **The Friends Gift Shop Committee** is looking for members to assist with purchasing and entering inventory. Basic computer skills are required, and training will be provided. **Photo Contest Committee members-** enter data, filing, organizing photo entries, setting up exhibit, promotion etc. Most time commitment will occur August through October.

Cheers to these Volunteers of the Month:

December: Steve Mithune, January: Nancy Brennan, February: Dave Schneider, March: Denise Warweg. 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.

Upcoming Training Opportunities:

Teaching in the Outdoor Classroom will be offered July 20-23 at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center in Fergus Falls. This free workshop is great for those who work within our Environmental Education program. You must register by June 12. A refundable 25.00 deposit is required to hold your place. Free housing available. For more information, go to www.friendsofprairiewetlands.com.

www.friendsofprairiewetlands.com. Birding Basics will be offered May 14 through the DL Festival of Birds. Please contact Janice if you are interested. This is a great class for those who may be leading public programs, children's activities, or working in the visitor center.



Welcome New Resident Volunteers- Joy Nyberg and Kathy Smith

In June of 2014, newlyweds Kathy and Joy set out on a journey to get to know this country. Part of that journey will now include Tamarac NWR. Both are on "indefinite sabbaticals" from their professional lives. Joy has been an educator for 18 years while Kathy was in law enforcement for 21 years. They have previously volunteered at refuges in New Mexico and Alaska and have also volunteered in Texas for Landmark Education, the Austin Humane Society, and several other organizations. They are excited to dedicate their time and talents to Tamarac while learning more about this special place. In fact, Joy is a Minnesota native and looks forward to visiting family and friends. They will arrive in early May and will depart in mid-July to continue their travels heading east to Maine and then making their way down the coast. Their traveling buddy is Frances, a 4 year old toy poodle. We are excited to have Kathy and Joy as part of our volunteer team.



Hannah Spry

I volunteered at Tamarac for the 2015 Fall Festival. I appreciate that I could because I love it there. I love seeing all the vibrant colors in the fall. I love seeing the snow covered trees in the winter and the green of summer. I especially love feeling the renewal in the spring air at Tamarac. I find walking the trails refreshing and calming. I like to hear the birds sing and watch for animals that cross my path. Helping with the festival was special for me because being able to see all the kids smiling reminded me of being there when I was little. I am very grateful that I can go to Tamarac and gain memories like these that I'll have for the rest of my life.



My name is Sydney Busker, and I am a senior at Detroit Lakes High School. I had a chance to volunteer at the Fall Festival at Tamarac. It was such an awesome experience to be out in the beautiful nature, and be in the good company of the other volunteers and visitors. Tamarac is a great place to go to get away from the hustle and bustle of our lives and get to experience the peacefulness that nature provides. I am thankful for places like Tamarac that put a great deal of work, and heart into preserving the beautiful land.



Mr. Jacobson -

"It is ~~so~~ important to educate and advocate nature to the next generation."
-Alice Steffl

NEW LIFE

by Jim Jasken

I confidently seek the dawn of new life
From the depths of winter each spring,
When the stench of dead marshes
And soft fish decaying
The fragments of grey ice
Belatedly bring.

With my eyes to the sky I search for the sign
When the sun rises full in my chest!
There - the drake mallard
flight-fighting
his brother
fulfilling

His new mate's
Prime instinct to nest.

MOVIES AND ACTIVITIES

*Wildlife Excursions will be offered every Thursday through August at 10:00 am beginning June 9. Explore the refuge with a knowledgeable guide. Search for wildlife and learn about the cultural and natural history of the refuge. 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 Wildlife Movies will be followed by a short program or activity as it relates to the refuge beginning May 31.

Sunday May 17, 2:00 pm

Movie: Crane Song

Every year some 80% of the world's Sandhill cranes make their way through the 75 mile stretch of Nebraska's central Platte River Valley on their spring migration. Crane Song weaves together striking visuals and majestic sounds of the birds' journey with the stories and insights of the people who observe them. 60 min.

Sunday May 24, 2:00 pm

Movie: Great Migrations – Race to Survive

Travel to Botswana where hundreds of zebras make a desperate 150 mile long slog so their bodies can take in much needed minerals. Take in the heartbreaking struggle of Pacific walrus that have become victims of earth's changing climate. Witness a herd of pronghorn antelope and follow its ancient migration through Wyoming. 55 min

Sunday May 31, 2:00 pm

Movie: Frogs, the Thin Green Line

Frogs have been on this planet for 250 million years. Today they are at the center of one of the greatest mass extinctions since the dinosaurs. Learn about this environmental crisis unfolding in our own backyard. 60 min.

Sunday June 7, 2:00 pm

Movie: Love in the Animal Kingdom

Animals dance, sing, flirt and compete with everything they've got to secure a mate. But are these important bonds love? Take a provocative look at the feminine wiles of a gorilla, the search for Mr. Right among a thousand flamingoes, the soap opera arrangements of gibbons and more. 50 min.

Sunday June 14, 2:00 pm

Movie: The Incredible Journey of Butterflies

Every year 100 million monarchs set off on a journey across North America, flying 2000 miles to reach their remote destination: a tiny area high in the mountains of Mexico. How do they achieve this? Shot in stunning detail, this film reveals the monarch as a scientific marvel caught in an inspiring struggle for survival. 50 min.

Saturday June 20, 10:00 am

A June Morning in Tamarac –Nature

Hike Put on your walking shoes and join us as we explore what's happening on the Tamarac Trail Loop. This easy-going walk will focus on plants and trees, but you will also enjoy fresh summer scents, sounds and unpredictable surprises. Coffee and water will be provided. Meet at the Pine Lake Parking Area located on Cty. Hwy 29 at 10:00 a.m. Approximate time: 2 hours. Suitable for families and all ages.

Sunday June 21, 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.

Saturday June 27, 10:00 am-3:00 pm

Discovery Center Grand Opening

Join us for a day of celebration with the Friends of Tamarac. Refreshments, music, children's activity booths, ribbon cutting, and building tours. See what your community made possible for students of all ages!

Sunday June 28, 10-3:00

Family Photography Workshop –

Northern C.L.I.C.K. (Conservation Lessons Involving Cameras & Kids)

Discover the fun and adventure of photographing wildlife, plant life and the ever changing scenes of nature. The morning will be focused on techniques. The afternoon will consist of a photo safari followed by viewing your photos along with a session on how technology is capturing animal behavior. Meet at the Discovery Center. Bring your own camera and sack lunch. Workshop presented by UMN Extension.

Sunday July 5, 2:00 pm

Movie: North America Episode 1– Learn Young or Die

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

Sunday July 12, 2:00 pm

Tricky Tracks and the Scoop on Poop!

Join us for this fun family activity. You may not always see animals but they leave plenty behind! Learn how to identify scat and tracks of some wild critters. Create your own animal scat and make a track out of plaster to take home. Meet at the Discovery Center.

**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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Mother grouse photo by Lee Kensinger