

SUMMER 2015

TAMARAC TRACKS



NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF TAMARAC NWR



Fox Kit by Lee Kensinger

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Ron Jenson, President of the Board

I can't recall the number of times I have been asked, "Just who is this group you call the Friends of Tamarac, and just what do they do?" They not only pay their dues on a regular basis, but they also support the Tamarac National Refuge in its effort to enhance environmental education for all ages. A lot of our time and effort is dedicated to school-aged children in our community. Friends volunteer, give financial support when asked, and advocate at all levels to make our refuge the best it can possibly be for all the citizens in our community. If you were at the June 27th Open House for our new educational facility, the Discovery Center, you witnessed the excitement that our Friends group can generate. We had 200 people give us the "thumbs up" on this awesome building, which was paid for with donations from our Friends members and the local business community.

We now are in the strategic planning stage for the next phase of our activity level. We have this beautiful building, and now to maximize its usage, we are in the process of working on a five-year plan toward that end. We have been talking about getting an educational coordinator, and now seems like the time to get this accomplished. Stay tuned!

There will be openings on our board in the coming year, so keep us in mind. Now is the time to join us in our next journey. You won't be disappointed. If you are interested, give any of our board members a call now, as we are in the process of filling our openings.



Become a Friend

Membership: \$20

Patron: \$100

Steward: \$250

Life Member: \$500



Friends of Tamarac NWR

35704 County Hwy. 26, Rochert, MN 56578

(218) 844-1767

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

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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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INVESTING IN *OUR* FUTURE

By Neil Powers, Manager, Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge

The recent Tamarac Discovery Center Grand Opening was a hallmark event for the refuge and an incredible opportunity to recognize the efforts of many talented individuals and dedicated partners. Connecting people with nature is our passion, and we understand the importance of this work, especially for the next generation. This message was exemplified as our Friends shared stories and welcomed our many partners to share in our collective excitement for the new facility and the possibilities yet to come.

Many of you know that the work of “connecting” kids with nature is similar to that of a gardener. Soil (and young minds) is tilled and fertilized, seeds are planted, and seedlings are carefully nurtured to ensure the best possible outcome. With time and a little luck, our plants, the children, bear fruit in the form of developing an understanding and appreciation for nature and the outdoors. Growing future conservation stewards is a long-term investment that requires the right resources like dedicated Friends, volunteers, and partners. The Discovery Center will be a cornerstone upon which our future efforts to connect children and communities will thrive.

Almost all of us have spent enough time in the outdoors, either with our own children or with other youngsters, to



witness a magical moment that reminds us of why we feel this inexplicable draw to nature. Famous conservationist and author Aldo Leopold wrote, “There are some who can live without wild things and some who cannot.” We are clearly a group that depends on “wild places” and “wild things” to nurture our very soul.

I'd like to congratulate the Friends of Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge on this incredible achievement. You have taken an ambitious vision and turned it into a reality! Thank you also to our many partners and donors. You have made an investment that will serve our communities well for years to come.

THANK YOU TO all the wonderful members of Friends of Tamarac

We want to thank all the wonderful members of Friends of Tamarac. You make our education programs and activities possible. Following is the list of new and renewed members from April through June of this year.

Patrons

Suzon Braun and Gerald Schumacher

Annual Memberships, Renewals and Donations

Chris and Mary Daly
Jim and MaryAnn Jasken
Lee Kensinger
Rick Hall and Verna Kragnes
Dennis Kral
John and Vonnie Jacobson
Terry Kalil
Michael Kennedy
Tim and Mary Kessler
Laurentian Lakes Chapter/NCTA
James Rakness and Geraldine Angelo-Rakness
Helen Rudie

From time to time we like to list all of our Life Members.

Cyndi and Melissa Anderson
David and Buggie Anderson
Howard and Linda Anderson
Chuck and Diane Becker
Don andCarolynn Blanding
Lanny and Lois Brantner
Les and Nancy Brennan
Bob and Linda Brockmann
Ira Burhans
Charles and Kay Burke
Kent and Connie Carlson
Ron and Marlys Carlson
Detroit Lakes Lions Club
Richard and Joyce Duffney
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Bill and Nancy Henke
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Richard Minch
Nancy Moulden
George and Sally Oja
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John and Lance Pitzl
George and Shirley Read
Blace and Myrna Schmidt
Ray and Lynette Vlasak
Dick and Clare Wilson

LITTLE BASS AT TAMARAC'S MITCHELL BRIDGE

by Jim Jasken

On the backs of rivers historians' ink flows.
So too, Philosophers require rivers.

I coasted to a stop on the dusty lot just north of the Mitchell Bridge, under which the Otter-tail River continues its course out of the Tamarac Country, flowing from Rice Lake into Height of Land. It was here, a few years back, that I had written a story here called MARVIN AND THE BULLFISH, featuring a rural 6-year old, his father, and a bullhead that meant more than an evening meal. Rivers are story-makers.

It was June, the River was high and fast, due to recent spring rains. I crossed the roadway and sat atop a large flat rock, the river at my feet. Here I have seen the perch rush shoulder-to-shoulder into Rice Lake to spawn. I've watched tourists and locals catch a variety of fish at this very bridge.

I cast my spinner across the swift current. BANG- "One fish one cast!" I thought. As I slid a handsome 14-inch fish onto the rock edge, a little voice said, "What kind of fish is that?"

A five or six year Native girl sat at my left elbow. The hue of her skin was a near perfect match to our smooth fawn-colored perching rock. "This is a large-mouthed bass," I said, "Where did you come from?"

"My grandma and I are looking for turtles."

There on the rock behind me was a youngish looking woman, appearing more European than Chippewa. She held a pack of cigarettes, smiled, as she's slowly exhaled.

I showed my little interloper the bass' sandpaper teeth as I held my catch by its lower jaw. She examined the bright colored sides, each fin, touched the raspy teeth. "Bass are beautiful," I offered.

"It is like a painting," she mused, "May I hold it?"

"If your Grandmother says it's OK."

She shot a pleading look behind. "Yes! It's OK!" she assured me as she eased her tiny thumb into the bass's mouth. She briefly held the fish before it slipped to the rocks. I grabbed the fish and put in into my bucket.

"Are you going to eat the bass?" she asked.

"No, I have a friend who asked me to bring him three bass, he likes bass... Do you eat fish?" I asked.

"No," she replied, "My mom won't touch a fish!" The grandmother laughed, as she lit another cigarette.

A little northern pike grabbed my lure and my companion screamed delight as I reeled it in. "You brought me good luck," I said,

"You are like an eagle!"

Her eyes narrowed, "My cousin's brother is a raven."

"Is that his clan?" I asked.

She sat in thought, as if not to have heard my question. "I am Nigig. That's an Otter."

"Otters are great fishers," I asserted.

We examined the skinny pike together; the artful rows of spots, the chain-linked back pattern and the sharp teeth. "Never put your fingers in a pike's mouth!" She cautiously tilted forward to see the spiked array of teeth. "I will throw this one back, myself," I said.

And so it continued, the grandmother smoked and we fished. Five northern pike and then a bass, "For your friend! Let me hold it, let me hold it!" With a double-thumbed grip, she dropped it into the pail.

"What is your name, my "good luck" lady?" I asked.

She pursed her lips, deep in thought. "Just call me... BASS, I want to be called LITTLE BASS..."

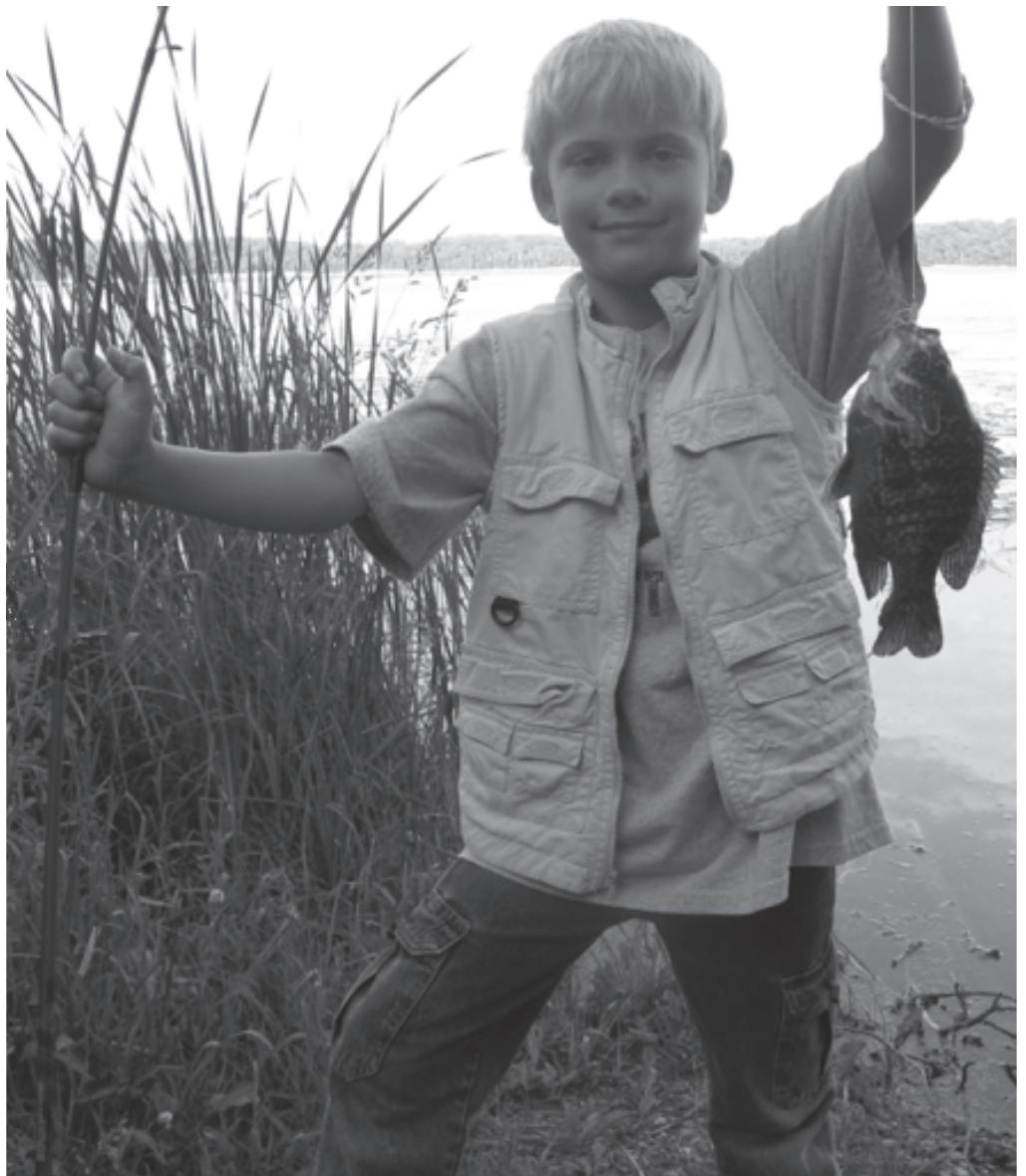
My helper dutifully slid the third bass into the bucket at my feet, signaling time for my departure. I hobbled up the incline, followed by my light-footed fawn-skinned bouncing shadow. "Thank you for fishing with me LITTLE BASS, you brought me great luck - my friend will be very happy!"

As I waved goodbye to the Otter Clan turtle hunter, self-named after the prettiest fish we caught at the Mitchell Bridge, I began dusting down Route 126 toward Highway 34. It was then I heard the distinct shout of a little Native voice, "Goodbye, EAGLE-MAN!"

Since rivers never sleep, the waters which passed by us that day would soon be in Canada. As the Red River carries the Ottortail water into Lake Winnipeg, the Nelson River and toward Hudson's Bay, I envisioned an old European man sitting on a rock, casting the current. Suddenly a little Ojibwe might appear at his elbow. "I am an Otter," she will say.



Fishing on the refuge can be a sweet nourishment of solitude. It's also been known to bring about some of the biggest smiles. Lakes open to summer fishing include North Tamarac, Blackbird, Lost, Two Island and Waboose. There's also great access to shore fishing along the Ottertail River at Mitchell Bridge on Hwy 126.



DON'T FORGET! Tamarac's Annual Photo Contest

This is your chance to share your captivating images and special memories of the refuge. Photos may be used in refuge publications, websites, and interpretive exhibits.

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

Deadline for submission is September 11.

For more information and entry forms, go to the Friends of Tamarac website: www.tamaracfriends.org.

Entry forms are also available at the visitor center.

All photos will be on display at the 2015 Fall Festival, October 3.

Celebrate "Bees and Butterflies"

at this year's Fall Festival October 3, 10:00am-3:00pm. Children's activities, guided bus tours, honey sampling, nature photography and art display, music, puppet shows, hiking and more!"



A GRAND CELEBRATION!

It was a big day at Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge as community donors, refuge staff, Friends of Tamarac, and members from the White Earth Nation celebrated the dedication and grand opening of the Tamarac Discovery Center.

Regional Director Tom Melius joined in the celebration that commemorated the completion of the facility and recognized the significant efforts of the Friends of Tamarac in making the environmental education center a reality.

“I’d like to extend my gratitude and appreciation to the Friends of Tamarac for their amazing accomplishment and donation of this wonderful facility to the Fish and Wildlife Service and the American people,” said Melius.

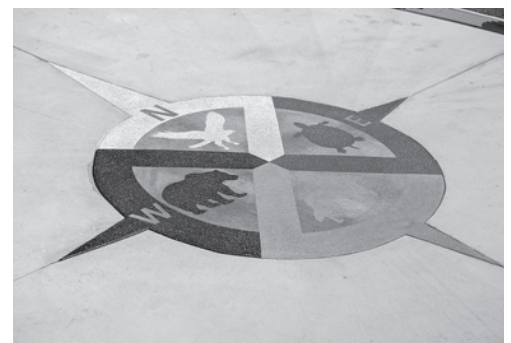
“Creating a facility like this, one that is dedicated to learning about the natural world and our mutual appreciation for the outdoors, takes vision and perseverance,” continued Melius.

The opening of this facility is important to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on many levels, as we look for new ways to keep our conservation work relevant to all Americans. The Center helps Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge meet its goal of fostering an appreciation for wild places and the wildlife that call Minnesota home. “Our vision for the Tamarac Discovery Center is one that will inspire the next generation to connect with nature and offer pathways to new opportunities that were previously unattainable,” said Refuge Manager Neil Powers.



The facility is built to last and incorporates numerous energy conservation features including geothermal heating and cooling, and high efficiency windows and doors. Water conserving bathroom fixtures and high efficiency lighting also reduce our overall energy footprint. The Wi-Fi available inside and outside the building along with other technology will assure the building’s relevancy into the future.

What makes this effort special is that it rallied private individuals and community resources and coupled them with a non-profit organization and a federal government agency. This incredible partnership is dedicated to a legacy of conservation.



SILVER EAGLE

“He sees beyond refuge borders to spread our conservation message around his local community and across the country to other refuge Friends groups. Simply put, he inspires,” said Regional Director Tom Melius as he presented the prestigious Silver Eagle Award to Ron Jenson.

Ron Jenson has dedicated nearly 10 years to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge. During this time, he has contributed over 5,438 hours and served as an educator, citizen scientist, maintenance worker, carpenter, board member, marketing specialist, leader, advocate, and more. Over the past decade, Ron has become ingrained into the fabric of the refuge as a pillar of support that has contributed significantly to the mission of the refuge and has become a strong advocate for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Ron Jenson understands the importance of reaching beyond the boundaries of the refuge as a voice that works to educate the public about initiatives and solutions for conservation concerns on a regional and national level. Ron understands who we are as an agency and believes in the work of the US Fish & Wildlife Service. He has participated in national and regional workshops bringing back to others an enthusiasm that embraces our national mission and an understanding of issues that shape our refuge lands, while making our Friends and volunteers stronger advocates. Ron Jenson understands the importance of sharing his perspective as he is now serving as part of the national Friends Mentoring Team where his passion and knowledge will inspire new leaders and advocates for Refuges well into the future. Ron Jenson is leaving a legacy for others to follow that demonstrates his passion for working in partnership with others for the benefit of all refuges. Examples like this separate Ron and elevate him as a deserving Silver Eagle

Award candidate.

When Ron began assisting with outdoor adventures for youth through the environmental education program his heart melted. Inspired by a young girl who squeezed his hand on a hike through the refuge explaining that she had never been in the woods before, he began a journey to make as many nature connections for youth as he could. Even when faced with challenges like schools without funds for transportation, he found ways to overcome them by initiating a ‘bus fund’ to ensure that schools interested in participating in outdoor education at the refuge would have that opportunity. As the education program began to grow, Ron realized a need for better accessibility and a hub for the program. What began as a simple shelter became an impressive capital campaign initiative to build the Tamarac Discovery Center. This 2,000 square foot building is now the nucleus for refuge environmental education programs, citizen science training, and conservation planning. This is an innovative venture and a stellar asset for the Service. Ron Jenson realized a need at the refuge and planned carefully to take the vision to fruition. Even



with the challenge of fundraising in a small, rural community, Ron and the Friends of Tamarac have demonstrated extraordinary fundraising capacity. The success of this effort is due in large part to community awareness of the refuge that Ron has helped build through his many presentations and the passion that he exudes for this project. Ron’s leadership, patience and perseverance were all critical attributes in making this a successful endeavor.

Ron has not only graciously shared his time and talent, but also his heart, a heart filled with passion for fostering the next generation of conservationists.



Meet Tamarac's 2015 Youth Conservation Crew

By Emily Broich

If you spend any time at Tamarac NWR this summer you may see the young smiling faces of three hard-working Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) workers. These students were hired to assist with a wide variety of projects that enhance wildlife habitat and conservation. Some of their duties are to help control invasive species, conduct wildlife surveys, collect native seed, maintain trails, and gather water quality data. Students must be between the ages of 15 and 18 and must have a GPA of 2.0 or higher. If you know a young person considering a career in natural resource conservation, encourage him or her to fill out an application before April, 2016.

Here is the 2015 crew:

Nathaniel Christianson, 17, is an avid reader whose favorite class is English. In his free time, he reads mythology and listens to piano music. He also enjoys ricing, trapping and hunting. Nathaniel volunteers for Nijii Radio and is

considering a career in broadcasting. He hopes that working as part of YCC will help him with college applications.

Melissa Schilling, 17, hopes the YCC experience will give her insight into natural resource careers and help her choose majors for a college degree. She raises rabbits, is the current president of Frazee FFA chapter and is a member of the National Honor Society. Since beginning YCC, Melissa has learned to identify different bird species by song, and her favorite work project at the refuge so far has been water quality testing.

Maggie Wagener, 17, will be a senior this fall and is involved with German Club. She hopes that working as part of YCC will help her to know what major she wants to pursue in college. She has enjoyed water quality testing and, since beginning YCC at the refuge, has been surprised by Tom Franklin's energy!



Welcome Resident Volunteers Ken and Susan Wilson

The Wilsons, from Houston, Texas, arrived on June 15 to spend the summer season at Tamarac. Ken is a maintenance assistant. He is mowing our lake accesses, entrances and interpretive sites. Susan is hosting the visitor center, assisting with interpretive programs, and will take on administrative duties as well. She is also happy to do litter patrol out on the refuge.

Ken and Susan have been full time RVers since 2013 and have volunteered at several locations including Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Louisiana, Brazos Bend State Park, Steven F. Austin State Park and Mother Neff State Park – all located in Texas. At the state parks, they were campground hosts where at times it was “fun chaos” 24/7! They enjoyed their refuge experience at Black Bayou as it was a little more quiet – influencing their decision to return to national wildlife refuges. In their previous lives, Ken worked as a mechanical engineer specializing in

industrial refrigeration. Over the years he worked for several companies, living in York, Pennsylvania, Houston, TX, Tulsa, OK and Toronto, Canada. Susan taught Spanish in Pennsylvania. While raising their daughter, she was a substitute teacher and also volunteered at her daughter's school. Later she held various administrative positions within human resources and also worked for a mortgage company. In recent years, she had her own residential and commercial landscape design company in Texas. The seed for this business grew from being in garden club for many years and working in the garden department at Home Depot.

Both Ken and Susan love to read, cook, meet new people and enjoy new experiences. Susan has an interest in birds and has a pet Timneh African grey parrot named Duncan. He is part of their family and travels with them. She also enjoys learning languages, having studied French, Spanish, German and Japanese. Ken has an interest in Ham radios



and has communicated with people all over the world. Both like to ride their recumbent bicycles and enjoy spending time with their Standard Schnauzer, Abby.

Susan and Ken wanted to come to Tamarac because “we had never been here before,” meaning the refuge and the state of Minnesota. They wanted to experience the people, wildlife, plants and lakes of this area. Tamarac seems to be a happy medium between the super busy state parks and the quiet Black Bayou NWR they've experienced. We are happy they are here as part of our summer team.

VOLUNTEER VIBES

by Janice Bengtson

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

Volunteers are needed for these positions: **Maintenance Volunteer Coordinator**- We are looking for a volunteer to work with our maintenance staff in coordinating projects for maintenance volunteers. This position would require 20-25 hours/week (May through mid-October) and would include recruiting for specific projects, scheduling volunteers, getting materials ready for the project and reporting back to staff. Duties would also include assignments, which may include mowing.

Survey Volunteer Coordinator- Lead the loon survey effort, including training, recruiting, scheduling of volunteers and follow up with reports. Bio-tech Gina Kemper has put together a step by step management package for this position.

Visitor Center Hosts – specifically every other Monday afternoon; 4 hour shift, substitutes also needed. Aquatic Invasive Species Educators-must be available Saturday mornings. Work in teams on a rotating basis throughout summer.

Environmental Education Assistants and Leaders- lead or assist with 25-45 minute activities. We will be gearing up for fall in no time!

Photo Contest Committee members- enter data, filing, organizing photo entries, setting up exhibit etc.

Other News- Bob Brockmann attended Heavy Equipment Tractor Training at Sherburne NWR. He joins Ron Jenson, Luverne Ehnert, Bill Wickum, and Art Bakker as part of our trail mowing crew.

Thanks to resident volunteers Kathy Smith and Joy Nyberg for keeping our visitor center grounds looking great, restrooms clean, information kiosks stocked and hosting the visitor center. Thanks to resident volunteers Ken and Susan Wilson for hosting the visitor center and maintaining our lake accesses and interpretive sites. Texas has given us two great teams!

Please welcome new volunteers Lowell Huwe- Maintenance Assistant, Ed Warweg- Excursion Guide, Ken and Susan Wilson, Steve and Mary Blackledge- Resident Volunteers, Deanna Johnson and Mary Meyer- Environmental Education Assistants, Margaret Kragerud- Visitor Center Host, Pamela Longtine- Wild Wednesday Assistant, James Kawlewski -Environmental Education Assistant and Wildlife/Habitat Assistant.

Kudos to Jeanine Ehnert, Nancy Brennan, Luverne Ehnert and Leslie Holen for researching, planning and planting the new pollinator garden on the south side of the

Visitor Center. It is looking good!

Wild Wednesdays have been a huge success this summer! Thanks to Jeanine Ehnert, Cheryl Hall-Kippen, Connie Carlson, Nancy Brennan and Denise Warweg for leading these activities and for making a difference in a child's life.

The Volunteer Recognition Picnic will be held on Thursday August 13. It is always a fun evening and one of the few opportunities for all our volunteers to get together and celebrate accomplishments. More details to follow!

A HUGE THANK YOU to all volunteers who helped make the Discovery Center Grand Opening a wonderful success!

Facebook Volunteers of the Month: Mark Geihl was named April's Volunteer of the month for his work in developing and leading the GPS activity for spring environmental education, assisting with grouse drumming surveys, and updating the FOT website. Fran Mattson received the award for May. She donated her time toward the Birding Festival, hosting the visitor center and leading environmental education activities. 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.

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!

Bushy-Tailed Visitors

by Fran Mattson

Many of Tamarac's visitors have enjoyed a special treat during the last two summers. There have been three fox pups and an adult fox on the grounds near the Visitor Center this summer. Last year there were two fox kits in the vicinity. Photographers need to be very respectful and keep their distance from all kinds of wildlife. Volunteer photographer Lee Kensing caught a shot of mother fox with lunch in her mouth.

Foxes are believed to mate for life. They dig underground dens where they raise their young. They prepare more than one den so that in case of danger, they can quickly move away. They might have as many as eight pups, which both parents help to raise.

Since they do not store their food, foxes are continually roaming in search of food in woodlands or open fields. Mice, rabbits, small mammals, and birds are part

of their diet, but it also includes fruit and seeds. During the winter months it may include up to 75 percent vegetation.

The red fox is part of the canine or dog family. Red foxes are not always red. They can be black, gray, brown or yellow. The gray fox actually climbs trees according to Stan Tekiela. The red fox has a white tipped tail, and the gray fox has a black tipped tail. Foxes communicate by scent. Their scent glands are located near their tails. They mark their territory with a skunk-like odor.

It is so special to be able to witness nature first hand. One never knows what phe-



Photo by Jann Kline

nomenon you might be able to witness on a visit to Tamarac. Each season brings its own beauty. Come check it out.

Facts taken from Nature Smart A Family Guide to Nature by Stan Tekiela & Karen Shanberg. This book and other nature guides are available in the Tamarac Gift Shop.

SPOTLIGHT ON GINA KEMPER

by Justine Boots

She is a seasonal biology technician at Tamarac, a great cook, a photographer, an accomplished wing shot, a fervent believer in the mission of our wildlife refuge. In winter, she loves woodland treks on her snowmobile accompanied by her husband Matt and children Lauren and Jayden. (As she noted recently, she now has her own two birds, a jay and a (w) ren.) She enjoys crocheting, and is always enthusiastic about hiking, fishing, hunting, exploring the glories of the refuge, and connecting children with nature. Her mantra is "If it is to be...it's up to me!" Meet Gina Kemper.

She spent her childhood years in Mahanomen, and when she was 10, she hiked Tamarac's trails for the first time. She was smitten by this "awesome place," and that day she confided to her father "I'm going to work here someday." The souvenir poster she purchased at the Visitor Center became a symbol of that dream, and it hung in her room throughout her

high school and college years. She graduated from Bemidji State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and was immediately hired by the White Earth Natural Resources Department where she assisted with wildlife surveys and goose/duck banding. A year later she was hired by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and through the Habitat and Population Evaluation Team Office out of Fergus Falls, she assisted at educational wildlife camps for middle school children and participated in waterfowl surveys. For the last 6 years, she has been a seasonal bio technician and YCC crew leader at Tamarac--a dream realized!

At Tamarac, she again conducts wildlife surveys, coordinates water quality studies, is involved in habitat management, refuge maintenance, and assists in prescribed burns and wildfires. This summer, she is coordinating and supervising three area youth and other volunteers on many habitat projects--MN waterfowl



migration, hunting reports, refuge stream and lake monitoring, and the MN loon/grebe/tern surveys. Tamarac's environmental education activities, visitor services, and public outreach efforts are all enriched by her expertise and passion.

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

MOVIES AND ACTIVITIES

Wild Wednesday! Explore the world of nature with your child during this hour long adventure geared for 3-6 yr olds. Meet at Discovery Center. Offered every Wednesday through August.

Wildlife Excursion: Explore the refuge with a knowledgeable guide! Tours will be offered every Thursday through August. Search for wildlife and learn about the cultural and natural history of Tamarac Refuge on this two hour driving tour. Meet at the Visitor Center at 10:00.

Sunday August 16, 2:00 pm

Movie: Insect Adventures!

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

Sunday August 23, 2:00

Movie: Owl Power

For centuries, the mysterious nighttime lives of owls have made them fascinating hallmarks of children's stories and folk tales the world over. But what actually makes owls so special? Using the latest in camera technology, computer graphics, x-rays and microphones, we can take

a brand new look at owls in more detail than ever before. 55 min.

Sunday August 30, 2:00 pm

Movie: Animal House

From a small depression in the sand to an elaborate, multi-chambered tunnel-animal structures can be simple or architectural marvels. These structures are sites of great dramas and extraordinary behaviors. From owls to beavers, Animal House provides a fascinating look at the homelife of wildlife. 55 min.

Sunday September 6, 2:00 pm

Movie: Mino-Bimadiziwin: The Good Life

The Good Life is an engaging portrait of a community on the White Earth Reservation where the peoples' lives revolve around the annual harvest of wild rice. Many wonderful and intimate moments show the hardships and rewards experienced by those who continue to live off the land. 57 min.

Sunday September 13, 2:00 pm

Movie: A Sense of Wonder: Rachel Carson's Love of the Natural World and her Fight to Defend it

When pioneering environmentalist Rachel Carson published Silent Spring

in 1962, the backlash from her critics thrust her into the center of a political storm. This film is an intimate and poignant reflection of Carson's life as she emerges as America's most successful advocate for the natural world. 60 min.

Saturday September 19

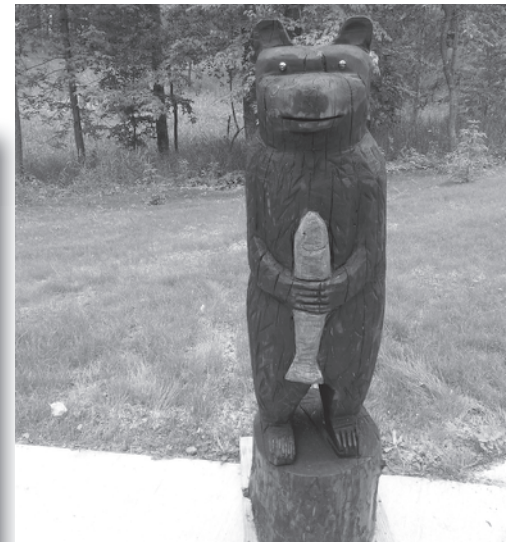
Fall Photo Safari 2:00-4:30 pm

Experience autumn on the refuge through the lens of your camera. Visit some unique areas to capture the changing color. Bring a snack, water and your creativity! Led by refuge volunteer guides and members of the Detroit Lakes Photography Club. Meet at the Discovery Center.

Sunday September 20, 2:00 pm

Movie: Pollen Nation

Follow the journey of a commercial bee keeper from the honey harvest on the high plains to the warm winter feeding grounds of California. Learn why honeybees and numerous species of native bees are in serious decline and how it's affecting our dinner table and that of wildlife. 25 min.



I was born in 1960 on Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge. My tree had to be taken down to make room for Tamarac's Discovery Center. Fritz Zirbel used his chain saw and found me inside of the tree. I have had my baby shots (a woodpecker found my bum). I am looking for a home at A Toast to Tamarac's silent auction, September 18 at The Richwood Winery.

**COME AND CHECK OUT
TAMARAC'S GIFT SHOP!
YOU WILL FIND NATURE
BOOKS FOR EVERY AGE.**

**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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The Friends of Tamarac along with Fish and Wildlife Service staff, community donors, and members of the White Earth Nation celebrated the grand opening of the Tamarac Discovery Center. (Photo by Lee Kensinger)