



WINTER 2016

# TAMARAC TRACKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF TAMARAC NWR

**PHOTO CONTEST  
WINNERS**  
page 8

**ICE FISHING ON  
TAMARAC**  
page 10

# START OF SOMETHING NEW FOR RON

By Vonnie Jacobson, President of the Board



Ron Jenson has faithfully served as president of Friends of Tamarac Board for eight years. He has been recognized by local, regional and national Friends organizations and US Fish and Wildlife Service for his outstanding contributions to Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge and the Friends organization. The number of hours he has volunteered is legendary.

But we all know him as our fearless leader of the charge to create The Discovery Center. From fund raising to acting contract supervisor he was involved in every phase of building our environmental education “shelter.” Shelter is what it started out to be, and then it grew into this tremendous facility of which we are so very proud. The Friends of Tamarac have been recognized by many for its ability to raise the funds and build The Discovery Center.

Ron’s dedication extends to all of Friends of Tamarac’s various projects. He is out with us cleaning up after We Fest, “going up the hill” in DC and cooking brats, as well as leading school children to an adventure. It is no small wonder that a little girl out in the woods with Ron on an environmental education course took his hand and said, “Mr. Ron, I have never been in the woods before.” It is with that same trust that we are all looking forward to Ron’s new projects to benefit Friends of Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge.

Please check out our web site [www.tamaracfriends.org](http://www.tamaracfriends.org) for a wonderful Ron slide show.



## Friends of Tamarac NWR

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

Website: [www.tamaracfriends.org](http://www.tamaracfriends.org) | E-mail: [info@tamaracfriends.org](mailto:info@tamaracfriends.org) | Find us on Facebook

## Become a Friend

Membership: \$20

Patron: \$100

Steward: \$250

Life Member: \$500



The Friends of Tamarac NWR is a 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to facilitate activities and programs that interpret, protect and restore the natural and cultural resources of the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

		Term Expires
Vonnie Jacobson, President	Rochert, MN	2016
Lee Kensinger, Vice President	Detroit Lakes, MN	2017
Fran Mattson, Secretary	Ogema, MN	2016
Jim Sinclair, Treasurer	Detroit Lakes, MN	2018
Don Blanding	Detroit Lakes, MN	2016
Sue Braun	Detroit Lakes, MN	2018
Nancy Brennan	Frazee, MN	2016
Linda Brockmann	Rochert, MN	2017
Cathie Ferguson	Fargo, ND	2016
Barb Haberman	Detroit Lakes, MN	2018
John Jacobson	Rochert, MN	2017
James Kawlewskja	Detroit, Lakes, MN	2018
Jamie Klein	Detroit Lakes, MN	2017
Denise Warweg	Rochert, MN	2018
Bill Wickum	Detroit Lakes, MN	2017

### Refuge Advisors to the Board

Neil Powers, Tamarac Refuge Manager	<a href="mailto:Neil_Powers@fws.gov">Neil_Powers@fws.gov</a>	218-847-2641 x 11
Kelly Blackledge, Tamarac Visitor Services	<a href="mailto:Kelly_Blackledge@fws.gov">Kelly_Blackledge@fws.gov</a>	218-847-2641 x 17

### Newsletter Committee

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

*Tamarac Tracks* is a publication of the Friends of Tamarac serving both the Friends and the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge. *Tamarac Tracks* is published four times a year, mailed to members and made available as an electronic PDF on our website. Please discuss article ideas in advance with the newsletter coordinator ([jjacobson@arvig.net](mailto:jjacobson@arvig.net)).

# INVESTMENTS

## FOR THE FUTURE

By Neil Powers, Tamarac Refuge Manager



Winter snowflakes and a blanket of fresh snow often provide the benefit of time to reflect and plan. The year gone by was filled with incredible success and joy, while the year ahead brims with optimism and untold opportunity.

The list of accomplishments from 2015 is impressive and will likely grow a little more before the end of the year. One accomplishment that stands above all others in my mind was the completion of

the Tamarac Discovery Center. While the facility itself is grand and deserves all of the glory representative of the efforts of so many dedicated individuals, what stands out to me are the relationships and partnerships that were forged during this process. This facility is an awesome example of people working together, sharing their expertise, and finding solutions to new challenges. I'm continually amazed that our Friends, refuge staff, volunteers, community partners, business leaders and private citizens all came together with a common goal of making this project a reality. I'm also proud to know that this project will be a living legacy that links all of us together by a common thread as "investors" in the future of natural resources conservation.

The year to come is anticipated to be filled with great expectations. A renovation of the headquarters parking lot is scheduled to begin in early June and last through the summer. The project is designed to refurbish the entrance road and provide additional parking. Some

changes in traffic flow and a new sidewalk to the Visitor Center are also highlights of this project.

In May, the refuge will join forces with the Detroit Lakes Chamber of Commerce in celebration of the 19th annual Festival of Birds. This year's program will highlight special guest and artist Joseph Hautman of Plymouth, Minnesota. Mr. Hautman's painting of trumpeter swans in flight was recently selected as the winner of the 2016-2017 Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp (duck stamp) contest. This represents a unique opportunity to recognize the special connection between trumpeter swan restoration efforts at Tamarac NWR and the selection of this grand species.

We're excited about new opportunities in the coming year and want to thank all of you for your support and dedication.

---

## Members Aug/Sept/Oct/Nov 2015 New 2016 memberships

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

### Patrons

Penny Aguirre  
Larry and Adrienne Buboltz  
Merlin and Betty Burke  
Dan and Kim Grandbois  
John Helgeson  
David and Maureen Karsnia  
Steve Midthuene

Justine and John Boots  
Dennis and Sherry Capistran  
Kathy Coyle  
Fred Daggett  
Myrna Doran  
Jim Dubay  
David and Judith Egge  
Luverne and Jeanine Ehnert  
Cathie Ferguson  
Lois Flatau  
Howard Fredine  
Rikki and John Given  
Rosemary Greenland  
Paul and Barb Haberman  
John Hovdenes  
David Holewinski and  
Benjamin Lacina  
Lucy Johnson and Tom  
Tollefson

James Kawlewski  
Robert and Loxley Koshnick  
Ray and Nancy Lacina  
Robert Larson  
Paul and Shar Legenhausen  
Dianne Leslie  
Tom and Sue Loepfe  
Tom and Pam Mortenson  
Chet and Paulette Nettestad  
Sarah Nowlin  
Kathy and Tim Olson  
John and Margot Peterka  
Neil and Amy Powers  
Glenda Rikhus  
Margaret Robson  
Helen Rudie  
William Rundquist  
Walter Sizer  
Ruth Solie

Candis Sommerfeld  
Don Stuehm  
Alan and Diane Turcotte  
Ed and Julie Warweg  
Mike and Denise Warweg  
George and Barbara  
Weatherston  
Don Whitney  
Phletus and Sally Williams

### Annual Memberships and Donations

Don and Rose Andersen  
Georgian Bachmann  
Bob and Lynda Backman  
Darrell Bauder  
Rod and Deannie Bergen  
Tim Bergien  
Del Bergseth  
Bob Bork

# 2015 TOAST TO TAMARAC/ FALL FESTIVAL DONORS

## INDIVIDUAL DONORS

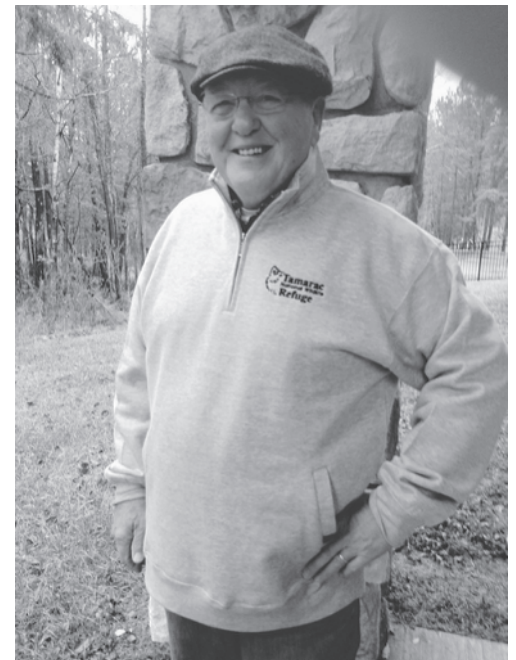
Becker, Chuck  
Boots, John and Justine  
Boots-Sacra, Mary-Catherine  
Brennan, Les and Nancy  
Bridgeman, Nicole  
Bridgers, Janet and Don  
Brockmann, Linda and Bob  
Burke, Kay  
Carlson, Connie  
Ehnert, Jeanine  
Elton, Mary  
Friends of Tamarac  
Geihl, Brian  
Gunderson, Dave  
Gunderson, Erik  
Hunt, Tom and Linda  
Jacobson, Vonnie and John  
Jasken, Ric  
Jenson, Michele  
Jenson, Ron and Jan  
Kensinger, Lee  
Lacina, Nancy  
Larson, Robb  
Lewis, Donna  
Mattson, Fran and Ken  
Mitchell, Becky  
Mueller, Mary  
Olson, Nancy  
Pechmann, Tracy  
Potter, Loren  
Richardson, Bill and Betty  
Schmidt, Myrna and Blace  
Seim, Carol  
Sinclair, Jim  
Skarie, Pam  
Spenningsby, Jim and Mary  
Thompson, Lyn  
Warweg, Denise  
Warweg, Julie  
Weber, Michael  
Zirbel, Fritz

## BUSINESS Contributions

Anytime Fitness  
All Star Cleaning Service  
Back Yard Station  
Barrel of Fun  
Becker Pet and Garden  
Bella Caffè  
Bergen's Garden Center  
Best Pets  
Beug Ace Hardware

Bleachers Bar & Grill  
Brew Ales & Eats  
Casey's General Stores  
Cenex Community Coops  
Central Market  
China Buffet  
Chinese Dragon  
Country Fields  
Curley's on Cotton Lake  
Dakota Monument  
David-Donhower Funeral Home  
Detroit Lakes Community Center  
Detroit Lakes Floral  
Detroit Lakes Newspapers  
EnVision Salon  
Essentia  
Fargo Brewery Company  
Fargo Force  
Four Seasons Car Wash  
Full Throttle  
Historic Holmes Theater  
Holiday Station Stores  
Hometown Crafts & Fabrics  
Jay's Garden Boutique  
J C Penney  
Jimmy Johns  
Ketter's Meats  
La Barista  
Lake Country Bakery  
Lake Life  
Lakes Corner Liquor Store  
Lakes Liquors  
Lakes Processing  
Lakes Sport Shop  
Lakeshirts  
Lakeside Tavern  
L&M Fleet Supply  
Mainstream Boutique  
Main Street Restaurant  
Mac's Hardware  
Menards  
Miguels Mexican Grill  
Morrison Eye Care  
M & H Gas  
M & W Service  
Minnesota Deer Hunters, Smokey Hills  
Chapter  
Muscatell Subaru  
Necce's Ristorante  
New Horizon Resort  
Norby's  
Odyssey Theaters  
Olivieri's Salon

Papa Murphys  
Passage to India  
Perkins Family Restaurants  
Pizza Hut  
Pride & Joy Homemakers  
Quiet Cricket  
Radio Shack  
R & G Subaru  
Red Pine Quilt Shop  
Richwood Winery  
Scheels  
Shooting Star Casino & Hotel  
Skal Bar & Grill  
Spanky's Stone Hearth  
Subway  
Sunlite Bar & Grill  
Tan and Tone  
The Lodge  
Thrifty White Pharmacy  
Tires Plus of DL  
Trader Joe's  
Walmart  
Webber Family Motors  
West River Dental



**Great new tamarac sweatshirts  
are available at the tamarac gift  
shop!**

# "A TOAST TO TAMARAC 2015"



An enjoyable celebration with a cause



Commemorative wine glasses were given to each guest by Betty Gunderson and Sue Braun



The vineyard on a beautiful fall evening



Scrumptious food was enjoyed by all



Silent auction crew of Pat West, Janet Bridgers and Justine Boots with friend



Intense game of putt-putt golf for guests

# VOLUNTEERING FOR EE

James Kawlewski

Volunteering for Environmental Education (EE) has provided fulfillment that reaches beyond doing a good deed. The best feeling is watching the happiness on the faces of children as they discover the forest. It reminds me of my experiences with wildlife as a kid and it's awesome to share that with children who might not otherwise get much experience in the outdoors. I volunteer for EE because I want to make a difference in preserving the wildlife that gives me happiness.

The children give me renewed hope that we may restore and preserve a land that's under increased developmental pressure. The children are always willing to learn and many of them display brilliance when they connect with nature at Tamarac. I find myself learning as much from the children as they learn from me.

The other volunteers are welcoming to newcomers and I feel at home when I work with them at Tamarac. They are willing to share their knowledge, they are well educated, and I've learned valuable teaching skills to share my knowledge of wildlife with others.

EE is for everyone who loves our environment and heritage. In addition to making great friends who also care about the environment, one of the best rewards is when a kid says, "Whoa, this is the biggest forest I've ever been in!" or "Do we have to go home? I want to stay in the woods!" That's a priceless feeling! Why don't you consider joining our team?

LEARN MORE AT  
[www.tamaracfriends.org](http://www.tamaracfriends.org)



"MARY ELTON WINNER OF "THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF TAMARAC" 2015 QUILT.

# FALL FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS



Center Stage Dancers in bee and butterfly costumes searched for nectar and pollinated flowers to the exquisite music of Brett Lewis playing Bach on his double bass.



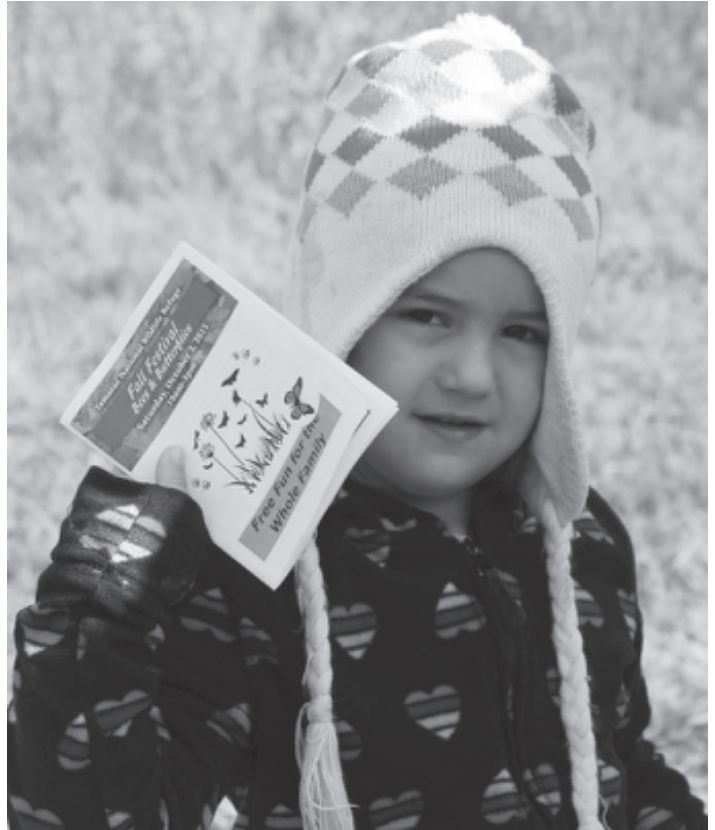
Children who visited 6 activities got a prize of an apple donated by Essentia Health, and a packet of milkweed seeds donated by Rick Jasken. Looks like this fellow is enjoying his apple!



Children were fascinated with details about butterflies at the Monarch Migration activity.



Michael Gallo used animal puppets to tell fables including one story with an anti-bullying message.



A youngster shows her passport or guide to all of the activities at the Fall Festival.

# Yliniemi takes Grand Prize in Photo Contest

Kristie Yliniemi of Detroit Lakes took the top honors in Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge's 14th Annual Photography Contest. Winners were announced at the awards presentation held at the Washington Square Mall on October 18. Her photo First Frost was chosen out of 94 entries. The natural light cast on frosted foliage captured the judges' attention. The People's Choice Award went to Dave Baer for Days End, a brilliant orange sunset with cattails in the foreground. This award was determined by public voting during Tamarac's Fall Festival and National Wildlife Refuge Week at the mall.

Brian Basham, photographer for the Detroit Lakes Record, Gale Kaas, publisher of the Frazee Forum, and Drago Nemec, local photographer were the judges this year. The contest consists of five categories including Plant Life, Scenic, Nature's Abstracts, Recreation, and Wildlife.

Yliniemi, the Grand Prize winner, said that she was drawn to that frosty plant on the Blackbird Wildlife Drive because "it just looked magnificent with the sunlight hitting it, adding a beautiful glow." Her intention of the day had been to photograph swans, but she saw an opportunity to get a few images of the beauty right in front of her.

Yliniemi has been photographing on the refuge for many years since her children, Dannon and Bailey, were young 4Hers looking for some great photo opportunities. They started with a 35 mm camera, and then graduated to a Canon digital camera. Two years ago, her daughter received a new camera as a gift so Kristie "snatched" the old Canon from her. Then she started taking more pictures of her own. After her daughter went off to college, Kristie admits, "I had all this free time on my hands, and I guess you could say the "empty nest" syndrome hit me. Driving through Tamarac made me feel closer to Bailey, and being surrounded by nature and its beauty seemed to console me."

Yliniemi grew up in an artistic family and attended school for fashion design in Minneapolis. After completing her degree, she decided that she preferred to be surrounded by nature, not tall skyscrapers. She was happy to focus on her family and share her creative side with her children while out in nature. Over the years, she has learned that "art is very subjective and personal not only to the artist but also to the judges. As long as I like what I have created whether it be a photograph or a clothing design, I'm happy."

Yliniemi also took 1st Place in the recreation category for her sunset photo "Hunter's Return."

Yliniemi received an enlarged metal print of her winning photo. It will be on display at the visitor center for a year. That will then be replaced by next year's winner. Winning photos may be viewed on the Friends of Tamarac website at [www.tamaracfriends.org](http://www.tamaracfriends.org), the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge's Facebook page, and in the visitor center.

The Tamarac NWR Photo Contest recognizes outstanding amateur photography that showcases the wildlife, plant life, and natural beauty of the refuge. The contest provides the refuge an opportunity to increase its photo collection, which is used to promote the refuge and its mission. Photos may be utilized in newspapers, brochures, exhibits, the refuge website, and Facebook page. The annual photo contest is sponsored by the Friends of Tamarac. This year's contest organizers were Jim Sinclair and Lee Kensing.



## 2015 Winning Photos

Grand: First Frost by Kristie Yliniemi

Refuge Manager's Choice: Picking up Pollen by Robert Larson

Friends of Tamarac Choice: A Little "Peace" of Heaven by LuGene Peterson

People's Choice: Day's End by Dave Baer

## Wildlife:

1st: Stretching by Dale Rehder

2nd: Snackin' by Greg Stetz

3rd: Green Heron by Dale Rehder

## Plant Life:

1st: First Frost by Kristie Yliniemi

2nd: Autumn Gold by Robert Larson

3rd: False Sunflower by Bob Bork

## Scenic:

1st: Smoky Sunrise by Patricia Larson

2nd: Blue Reflection by Jann Kline

3rd: Morning Sunrays by Diane Turcotte

## Nature's Abstracts:

1st: Wild Wet Web by Greg Stetz

2nd: Sunset by Penny Meyers

3rd: Nature's Art by Diane Turcotte

## Recreation:

1st: Hunters Return by Kristie Yliniemi

2nd: Old Walking Trail by Barbara Mosher

3rd: Sunset Trail by Bailey Yliniemi

## Youth Awards:

Wildlife: Three Swans by Joe Cooper

Scenic: Landscape by Gabriella Frohman

Nature's Abstracts: Black Swallowtails by Matthew Kohler





**DAY'S END, DAVID BAER**



**PICKING UP POLLEN, ROBERT LARSON**



**HUNTERS RETURN, KRISTIE YLINIEMI**



**A LITTLE "PEACE" OF HEAVEN,  
LUGENE PETERSON**



**WILD WET WEB, GREG STETZ**



**STRETCHING, DALE REHDER**

# VOLUNTEER VIBES

## Great Moments of 2015

2015 was an awesome year of accomplishments! Thanks to our volunteers for playing a role in helping us reach our conservation goals.

Welcome to those who joined our team in 2015: Ed Warweg, Margaret Kragerud, Mary Meyer, James Kawlewski, Pam Longtine, Terry Hetterscheidt, Lowell Huwe, Deanna Johnson.

Bob Brockman attended Heavy Equipment training and became a member of our trail mowing team. Nancy Brennan, Connie Carlson and Cathie Ferguson attended the MN Master Naturalist Instructor course. Cathie Ferguson attended the Sam Ham Institute on Interpretation- Making a Difference on Purpose.

Resident Volunteers Kathy Smith, Joy Nyberg, Ken and Susan Wilson donated 1054 hours. They hosted the visitor center, stocked kiosks, cleaned restrooms, mowed, managed recycling, conducted loon surveys, assisted with Environmental Education, and led Wildlife Excursions.

Wild Wednesdays flew to new heights with over 370 adults and children participating!

The Discovery Center Grand Opening was a day of celebration. Thanks to all the volunteers who made it a wonderful success.

Cheers to Connie Carlson! She was named the Volunteer of the Year. She donated over 550 hours during 2015 in several areas including Environmental Education, coordinating and leading Wild Wednesdays, and outreach events including the County Fair.

Our Volunteer Naturalists presented 36 interpretive programs with 650 visitors attending.

Over 50 volunteers participated in hosting the Fall Festival-Butterflies and Bees. What a great day to showcase Tamarac's conservation efforts and our team of awesome volunteers. Nancy Brennan did an incredible job in coordinating the event.

Kudos to Lowell Huwe, Mark Geihl, and Ken Mattson for taking care of much needed maintenance around our boundary signs, gates, and trails.

Volunteers bud-capped thousands of white pine seedlings to protect from deer browse. They also conducted the Loon, Grebe &

Tern Survey in June observing 91 loons, 65 black terns and 7 Forster's terns.

Cheers to the "A Team" of Aquatic Invasive Species Educators for donating 180 hours (Harry Halvorson, Cathie Ferguson, Jim DuBay, Charlie Leitheiser, Ken Mattson).

Congrats to our Volunteers of the Month: Nancy Brennan (x2), Dave Schneider, Denise Warweg, Mark Geihl, Fran Mattson, Ken Mattson, Luverne Ehnert, Denise Warweg, James Kawlewski.

Ron Jenson received the Silver Eagle Award from the Regional Director in June. This award recognizes individuals from outside the Service who have made exceptional contributions to environmental and natural resource issues. Way to go, Ron!

**Wanted:** Visitor Center Hosts, Environmental Education Assistants and Leaders, Maintenance Coordinator.

If you are interested in joining our volunteer team, contact Janice Bengtson at [Janice\\_Bengtson@fws.gov](mailto:Janice_Bengtson@fws.gov) or 218-844-1756. Check [www.tamaracfriends.org](http://www.tamaracfriends.org) for specific job descriptions.



### BLACK CRAPPIE ARE A SCRUMPTIOUS CATCH!

Fishing for crappies is a great family activity on the refuge. Lakes open for winter fishing include Tamarac Lake, Two Island Lake, Pine Lake and Wauboose Lake. US Fish & Wildlife Service Officer Brent Taylor confirmed, "Tamarac refuge is the best lake on the refuge for catching crappie. When you are in the right place at the right time, you may even catch your limit." Some anglers may recall that Wauboose was one of the more productive ice fishing lakes, however, the lake is still recovering after a significant winter fish kill in the spring of 2014. Fishing is limited to the refuge hours of 5:00am-10:00pm and ice shelters may not be left overnight. Vehicles are not permitted on the ice so bring a sled to pull your equipment. The refuge offers some of the most pristine ice fishing around. Taylor reminds folks that the fishing laws are set to assure a stable and healthy fishery. If you observe anglers taking more than the limit or other violations, please call the Turn In Poachers or T.I.P. line right away by calling toll-free 1-800-652-9093 or key in #TIP on your cell phone.

# MOVIES AND ACTIVITIES

**Feb 7, 2:00**

**Snowshoe Adventure**

Explore the science of snow as you embark on a short trek through the woods and onto Jim's Marsh. Learn how we observe and record winter weather data including snow depth and moisture content. Meet at the visitor center. Children's snowshoes available to borrow, limited adult sizes.

**February 21, 2:00**

**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.

**March 6, 2:00**

**Movie: The Himalayas** Escape to the Himalayas! Born during the ice ages, they form the highest mountain range in the world, and reach across Asia for two thousand miles. Their great beauty may appear cold and forbidding, but the Himalayas are actually rich with a surprising array of plants and animals. Snow leopards, wolves, bears, remarkable monkeys, foxes, spiders, snakes, giant bees, and high-flying birds live here. These are mountains that will take your breath away! 50 min. NEW!

**March 20, 2:00**

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

**April 3, 2:00**

**Movie: Birds of the Gods** Tired of the cold? Escape to the New Guinean Rainforest, home to birds of unimaginable color and beauty. When Europeans first saw the plumes of these creatures in the sixteenth century, they believed they must be from heaven and called them Birds of Paradise. To find them in New Guinea is one of the toughest assignments, and to witness their extraordinary mating displays is even tougher. 50 min. NEW!

**April 17, 2:00**


**Movie: North America- Born to Be Wild** Take an extraordinary journey through North America and meet the incredible array of exotic wildlife that lives in our backyard. Through epic cinematography and compelling storytelling, we experience their struggle for survival in this land of extremes. 50 min. Wildlife include grizzly bear, wolf, gray whale, cougar.

**May 1, 2:00**

**Movie: Animal Homes- The Nest** Part one of a three part series, this film features a blend of animation and signature "architectural blueprints" that highlight engineering principles of some very interesting nests found around the world. Witness some intriguing behaviors and social interactions that take place in and around them. 50 min. NEW!

**May 19-22 Detroit Lakes Festival of Birds**

Join us for some great workshops, field trips and speakers. This year's keynote speaker is Scott Wiedensaul. Scott will enlighten us on his work with Project SNOWstorm (Snowy Owls). Celebrate the Centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty. Learn how the Duck Stamp has benefitted waterfowl and other wildlife species over the years. This year's stamp features Trumpeter Swans which will be the focus of the Tamarac field trip. Go to [www.visitdetroitlakes.com](http://www.visitdetroitlakes.com) for more information.



**GIVING HEARTS DAY,  
THURSDAY,  
FEBRUARY 11, 2016  
[www.impactgiveback.org](http://www.impactgiveback.org)  
TYPE: FRIENDS OF TAMARAC  
MAKE A DONATION TO  
SUPPORT OUTDOOR  
EDUCATION FOR OUR  
CHILDREN**

## Crappie Chowder Made Simple

**Ingredients:**

1 to 1 ½ pounds of crappie cut into about 1 inch cubes  
5 slices of bacon  
5-6 potatoes peeled and cut into small chunks  
1 can cream style corn  
1 can cream of

mushroom soup  
2 cups of milk  
1 stick of butter  
¼ cup of chopped onion  
1 garlic clove or ½ teaspoon of pre-chopped garlic  
Salt & pepper

Boil the potatoes until tender. Brown the slices of bacon until they are just about to get crispy. Remove bacon and set aside. In the bacon drippings add ½ stick of butter. After the butter melts add the onion, garlic and crappie (could also add celery or green pepper). When the fish turns white and flakes, remove from fry pan and add to a large soup pan with the onion and garlic. Add other ½ stick butter, potatoes, milk, cans of mushroom soup and corn. Simmer, but don't boil. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Add the bacon, crumbled, over the top to serve. Don't forget the oyster crackers or a good crusty bread.

**NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS  
OF TAMARAC NWR**

Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge  
35704 County Highway 26  
Rochert, MN 56578

[www.tamaracfriends.org](http://www.tamaracfriends.org)

Phone: 218-844-1767  
[info@tamaracfriends.org](mailto: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](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/tamarac)



PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
DETROIT LAKES,  
MN  
56501  
PERMIT NO. 707



*Sandra Nightski caught this magical view of the northern lights over Pine Lake.*