



SUMMER 2018

# TAMARAC TRACKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF TAMARAC NWR

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Summer Loon photo by Kristie Yliniemi

# SERVING WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE

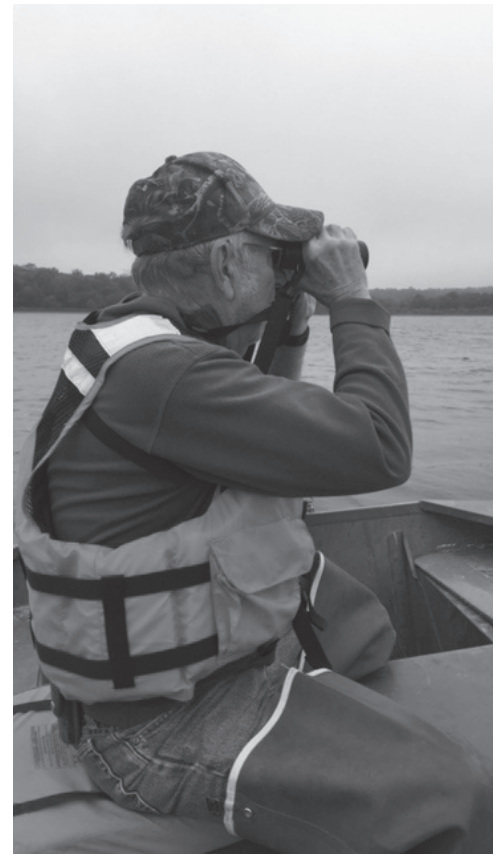


Resident volunteer Allan Jones mowing.

Intern Cristina Stahl, Biologist Wayne Brininger and volunteers Larry Aarstad, Ken Mattson and Larry Michelson conduct some water management work. (They had a blast!)



Our gardeners spruce up the Visitor Center walkway. Shannon Jones, Leslie Holen, Nancy Brennan, Jeanine Ehnert.



Ken Mattson searches for loons.



## 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: \$25

Patron: \$100

Steward: \$250

Life Member: \$500

PLEASE JOIN US IN OUR MISSION TO CONNECT CHILDREN WITH NATURE BY BECOMING A MEMBER OF FRIENDS OF TAMARAC, VOLUNTEERING AT TAMARAC AND/ OR DONATING A GIFT.

### CONTACT US AT:

Friends of Tamarac Office: 218-844-1767

Email: [info@tamaracfriends.org](mailto:info@tamaracfriends.org)

Stop in at the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center or mail a check to:

35704 County Hwy 26  
Rochert, MN 56578

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

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### Newsletter Committee

Vonnie Jacobson, Fran Mattson, Linda Brockmann, Justine Boots, Kelly Blackledge, Nancy Brennan, Janice Bengston, Terry Krile, 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)).

# EVERY NEW BEGINNING COMES FROM SOME OTHER BEGINNING'S END.

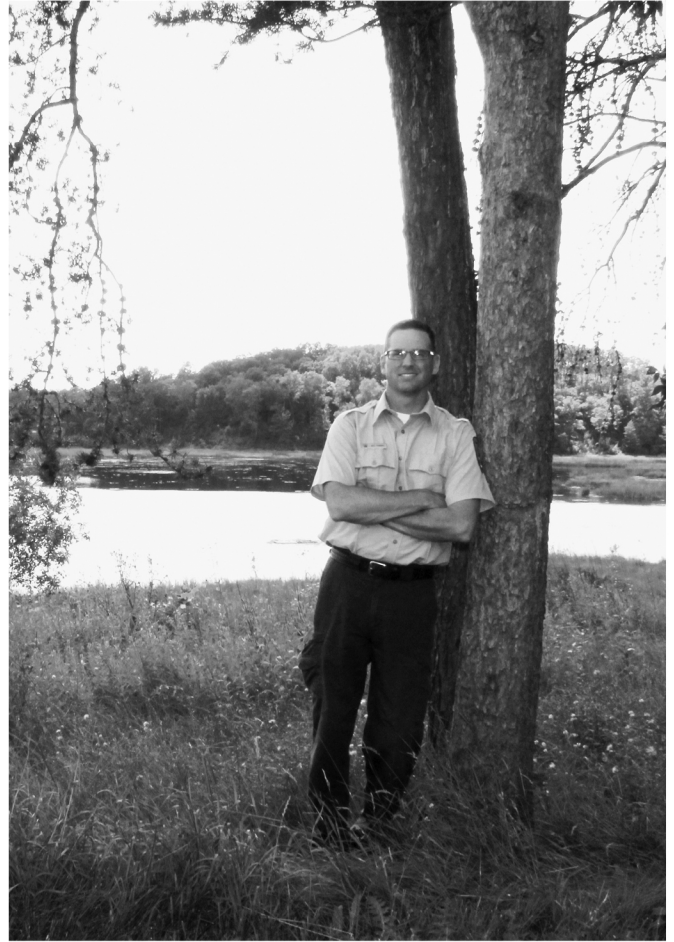
By Neil Powers, Tamarac Refuge Manager

For the past 7 1/2 years I have had the pleasure of serving as the refuge manager for Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge and Wetland Management District. Moving back to Minnesota, my home state and reconnecting with my childhood memories, many of which were founded on or around the refuge, has been an exceptional experience.

Beginning in late August, I will assume a new role as the project leader for the Fergus Falls Wetland Management District and Prairie Wetlands Learning Center. This transition will be bittersweet and I will miss much of what makes Tamarac NWR great. Most of all, I will miss the people who on a daily basis transcend the refuge from being a home for wildlife to a special place that connects people and the outdoors. I will remember fondly your contributions and passion for all things wild and miss you for your friendship and dedication.

Our success as conservation professionals and stewards of the land has long-tilted on the axis of concerned citizens and volunteers who value wild places and the outdoors. Our relationship with nature and with each other has made us strong advocates and connects us to a larger purpose of conserving and protecting places that enrich our mind and soul. Tamarac is truly a magnificent place because of who we are, and I encourage everyone looking for "a new beginning" and a way to connect with nature and the outdoors to consider Tamarac's many volunteer opportunities.

I wish you all the very best, and thank you for all that you do for wildlife and wild places.



## NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS RECEIVED FOR 2018 TO DATE.

Emily Lehr & Sel Jenkins  
Bob and Lynda Backman

Curtis or Susan Bring

Ken and Mary Bruss

Jody Doll

Tom and Cathy Fritz  
Sandra Gordon

John and Margaret Gunderson

Ray and Louise Heino  
Judy Johnson  
Terry Krile

Jim & Suzanne Montague

Mr. and Mrs. Rod Nord  
Mrs. Oja

Ms. Kay Provine  
Mr. John Strandness  
Carol Torgerson

David Ulrick  
Ray and Lynette Vlasak

## SPECIAL DONATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE FRIENDS OF TAMARAC IN 2017 TO PRESENT IN HONOR OF:

Ellen Anderson  
Jacqueline Aschbacher  
Barbara Burhans  
Erwin Gronberg  
George Oja



*"A life that touches others, lives on forever." Anonymous*

*Our intent is remembrance; so if a loved one has been inadvertently omitted please contact the Friends of Tamarac office @ 218-844-1767 and inform us of the error.*

# SEASON OF THE LOON

The Ojibwe people of the North Woods called the loon “mang” meaning the “most handsome of birds”. During the non-breeding season loons have a gray-brown plumage. We are fortunate in Minnesota to see the common loon in their striking black and white breeding plumage.

Did you know that Minnesota has more common loons than any other state except Alaska? Approximately 12,000 loons summer on Minnesota’s 10,000 lakes.

Ancestors of this bird date back over 65 million years so their bodies have been adapted to be made for water. Their torpedo-shaped body is extremely efficient for swimming. Its legs are set far back to serve as oars and its feet are webbed. Most birds have hollow bones to make flying easier, but the loon’s bones are very dense which allows them to dive up to 250 feet below surface in search of fish. Their heavy bodies require long “runways” for takeoff (100 feet or more). Quiet lakes at least seven acres in size are best suitable for loons.

A loon’s coloration is also an adaptation

for survival. Their light coloration on their belly makes them less visible to fish, allowing the loon to sneak up and catch its prey. The loon’s characteristic red eye filters the light allowing the bird to see better underwater.

Male loons appear on our lakes and set up territories just after the lakes begin to thaw. Shortly after, the females begin to arrive. Only loons 3 to 4 years old will mate. The male and females will build nests together using reeds and grasses along the shoreline. After laying one to three eggs, they will both take turns laying on the nest and keeping the eggs warm for up to 30 days or until the young hatch.

Threats to their eggs may be due to predation from raccoons, skunks, and mink. The young hatch ready to swim, but are often carried on the adults backs to avoid predators like the snapping turtles and northern pike. Young loons can fly at two months of age.



Photo Credit Dale Rehder

There is probably nothing more distinctive in the northern wilderness than the haunting call of the loon. The loon has four basic calls with variations of each. The “tremolo,” which sounds like quivering laughter, is a sound alarm and aggression. The “wail” is the long lonely call used to communicate over distance. The “yodel” is used by males to guard their territory. Finally the “hoot,” a shorter call is used to communicate with the young.

So this summer when the loons are calling, savor that Minnesota moment and treasure the season of the loon.

## NATURE STORE CORNER!

### WHAT’S HAPPENING AT THE NATURE STORE?

by Nancy Fischer

In the past couple of months, many volunteers from the Friends of Tamarac and the staff of the Tamarac National Wildlife refuge have patiently spent time training me as the new Nature Store Manager. It has been a wonderful challenge to learn the ropes, and I think I am beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel! At least the store is still up and running, and the product is selling. The volunteers are as faithful as ever by staffing the gift shop and cheerfully greeting each guest that visits the refuge and the Nature Store. Without your assistance the Nature Store would not exist. You know who you are and hats off to you!

### WHAT’S NEW AT THE NATURE STORE?

The 2018 – 2019 Federal Duck Stamp is available for purchase. The cost is \$25.00 and provides entrance to all National Wildlife Refuges throughout the United States requiring an entry fee.

Have the recent rainy days left you wanting to curl up with a good book? The Nature Store has a large selection of books for all nature lovers including some of our latest arrivals:

Kaufman Field Guide to Nature, Night Sky Field Guide, Midwest Foraging, and the Midwest Medicinal Plants.



We carry a wide array of nature-related literature for children and adults that will stir the imagination. Please remember to shop with us for that special occasion or if you simply want to relax with a good book on a rainy day.

One of our main attractions at the Visitor Center windows are those delightful and dainty hummingbirds. Children and adults alike enjoy watching them with their quick beating wings as they sip nectar from the feeders hanging by the windows. In order to enhance our guests’ experience even after they leave the refuge, we have introduced some new hummingbird feeders to our inventory.

# FROM NORTH CAROLINA TO NORTH WOODS

By Cristina Stahl, US Fish & Wildlife Service Directors Fellow Intern at Tamarac Refuge

The perfect weather and a cool breeze were the best welcome as I first arrived at Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge. The chaos of driving through highways, construction, Chicago, and Minneapolis was all put to peace as I rolled down my windows to feel the soft breeze and fresh air. The trees were such a fresh green and the lakes were sparkling blue. After a 23 hour drive, I had finally arrived.

Nature is so much more than just beautiful scenery. This is something I have come to understand as I study it more and more. The beauty was in the details. This is something I really began to learn as I traveled more. I no longer saw a bunch of trees, but I saw a type of forest. I began to understand why this forest was different from the forest in North Carolina.

The forest of Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge is something special because it's a mix of deciduous and coniferous forest. A paper birch is a rare sight where I live, and here there is a forest full. Its white bark is a beautiful contrast to the green forest. Firs and spruce are not common in North Carolina. They are found only on some of

the highest points in the mountains, which are usually over 6000 feet high.

Tamarac has a couple of prairies, and my favorite thing is to be caught in awe by the vastness of the sky. The beautiful prairie is filled with blooms, and the sound that the grass makes in the wind always fills me instantly with tranquility. The openness that a prairie offers may be found when you're standing at the edge of the ocean in North Carolina. But instead of grass, you have waves.

My favorite thing about Tamarac NWF is a sunset at the lake. The water turns gold, pink, and sometimes a light blue. Before the sun even sets, everything the sun touches turns gold. The beauty is everywhere you look. I feel instantly calm as I walk up to the water. The opportunities to experience a sunset at the lake are unending. On Tamarac alone there are over 20 lakes. In the whole state of North Carolina we have 5 natural lakes! Not only will you enjoy the reflective sunset colors, but you may hear a loon or see a bald eagle. Both are rare sightings in NC, but common sights at Tamarac Refuge.



One of the most notable differences is the climate. Coming to Minnesota was one of the first times I actually enjoyed summer. In North Carolina, the high humidity and hot weather makes it very unenjoyable to be outside (and even dangerous). Minnesota summers are filled with sunny blue sky days with a light breeze in the mid-70s. On those days I can hardly believe it's summer! The truth is I have been so lucky to call both these places my home.



The hottest new feeder is the Hummer Ring® which is designed for all ages. Can you remain quiet enough to experience a hummingbird literally eat from your hand? We certainly have enjoyed watching some of our young guests make their attempt outside the Visitor Center! What a great joy it is watching them interact with nature.

Along with the new inventory, we continue to carry many different educational and interactive products that encourage enthusiasm for the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge and our environment.

## COMING SOON!

We have placed an order with Lakeshirts for multiple new items that should arrive soon in August. Tri-blend t-shirts in long-sleeve and short-sleeve styles along with men's and women's quarter-zip sweatshirts. All will sport new logo designs in wonderful new colors. Plus, we have ordered some special Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge stickers for collectors or anyone that would like a commemorative item to remember their visit to the Refuge.

## TO SUM IT UP!

Come shop at the Friends of Tamarac Nature Store. If you need a gift for the hard to buy for person and you can't find that right item at the Nature Store, consider giving them the gift of a Friends of Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge membership. For a minimum of \$25.00, the membership entitles the recipient to a 10% discount at the Nature Store, the Friends Newsletter, and a sense of accomplishment in helping to connect kids with nature.

We hope to see you visit us again soon!

## Nancy Fischer

Friends of Tamarac Nature Store & Office Manager



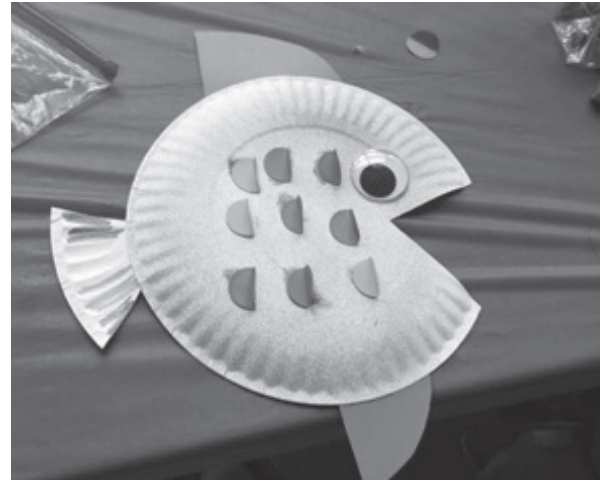
Wild Wednesday young artists. Photo by Janet Bridgers.



Lauren Kemper serves up treats at Wild Wednesday.



Denise Warweg captivates our Wild Wednesday students.



Fish Art! From Wild Wednesday. Photo by Janet Bridgers.



Children learn about sandhill cranes from Shelly Stearns and Connie Carlson.

# TAMARAC HOSTED WATERCRAFT TRAINING

By Fran Mattson

Two training sessions took place at Tamarac the week of July 9. The Motorboat Operator Certification Course (MOCC) and the Non-Motorized (Paddling) Module for kayaks and canoes. Tamarac staff members, volunteers, and US Fish and Wildlife Service employees from other areas completed these courses. Both Wayne Brininger and Gina Kemper, Tamarac staff, are now both certified to teach these courses.

There was a variety of hands-on learning experiences that took place in North Tamarac Lake and Cotton Lake. The first half of the week was the MOCC course, and the second part of the week was the kayak and canoe course. The two courses combined midweek for the rescue experiences. In this part all participants were in the water practicing techniques in case a watercraft should capsize. Special gear was demonstrated for carrying out biology work in cold water.

Students in the motorboat course had opportunities to load and unload boats, back trailers, and run boats on the water. The participants in the paddling course learned paddling skills as well as emergency steps if a canoe or kayak should capsize.

This was one more example of the value of having a facility like the Discovery Center to accommodate training with A-V equipment available for power-point presentations and training videos. The Discovery Center also has the space to spread out indoors and then intermix classroom time with outdoor experiences. The Discovery Center was a real asset in hosting these courses, and the hope is that future trainings will be offered at Tamarac Refuge. It is also a real plus to have on-site staff that are now certified to teach these courses.



Photo by Fran Mattson



## THANK YOU NEIL POWERS

As we see that our Friend and mentor, Neil Powers has been reassigned to a new job at Fergus Falls our gratitude and thanks go to him for an exceptionally well done job at Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge. Neil has guided and worked tirelessly with the Friends of Tamarac to make The Discovery Center a reality. Under his guidance the Friends of Tamarac were recognized nationally by the National Wildlife Refuge Association as Friends group of the year. He has lent his support, encouragement and knowledge to all of our projects, from environmental education to volunteerism. His professionalism is an example to all of us. The value and trust he has placed in Friends of Tamarac has been greatly appreciated and has helped make us an accomplished organization. We wish him the best in his new position.

## Tamarac NWR Offers its First

# Minnesota Master Naturalist Class

By Nancy Brennan

Nineteen enthusiastic students completed a week-long Minnesota Master Naturalist class held at Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge June 11–15 joining the ranks of over 2,000 volunteers trained through the program since it was established in 2005. The stated mission of the Minnesota Master Naturalist Program is “to promote awareness, understanding and stewardship of Minnesota’s Natural environment” by training informed volunteers “dedicated to conservation education and service within their communities.”

Tamarac’s class focused on one of the three major biomes or provinces in Minnesota, “Big Woods, Big Rivers,” otherwise known as the eastern broadleaf forest. Think maples and basswoods! This biome covers a sash of land from northwestern Minnesota to the southeast roughly following a gradient of moisture and temperature. Each day of training covered major topics to better understand the components and processes of the Big Woods.

Neil Powers, Refuge Manager, warmly began and closed the week

by welcoming students and expressing his appreciation for the many volunteers who help the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Minnesota and elsewhere. The first day focused on the basic geology of west central Minnesota, its glacial history and the role of soil and fire in the distribution of prairies, oak savannas and pinelands courtesy of Dr. Charles Parson of Bemidji. He also led field sessions to interpret layered gravels and the history of the Ottertail River. Students also began to work on group projects called “Capstone Projects” to help Tamarac refuge staff, such as writing and drawing how-to instructions for “Tom’s Tamarac Picnic Tables,” planning plantings, and making protective tree cages.

Day two, Tuesday, was all about plant communities. Tamarac Wildlife Biologist, Wayne Brininger, brought management decisions to life in a field trip that clearly showed the importance of understanding both plant ecology and detailed wildlife species’ needs in all parts of the 48,000 acre wildlife refuge. Brininger further explained that Tamarac aims for a mosaic of habitats in various stages



Participants came from all around Minnesota and even two from Missouri to become Master Naturalists. After 40 hours of training all graduated with honors.



Avid birders Steve Midthune and Nancy Henke guided the group to key bird watching locations and helped folks identify species by sight and sound. Photo by Denise Warweg.

## MASTER NATURALIST – ACROSS STATES, ACROSS GENERATIONS

By Sel Jenkins and Emily Lehr



Sel Jenkins and Emily Lehr live in St. Louis, Missouri and travel to Minnesota to volunteer at Tamarac Refuge.

My partner Emily and I traveled from St Louis, Missouri, to Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) to attend the Minnesota Master Naturalist initial training in June 2018. However, our journey didn’t really start in St Louis the weekend before. Our journey started years before in the foothills of the Appalachians, and we wandered through river county in Missouri and the forests of Wis-

consin before ending in the Big Woods/Big Rivers of Minnesota.

Emily’s father was a doctor by trade but a naturalist at heart. This former Eagle Scout, who ironically planted kudzu as a child to mitigate erosion, would lead her family on wildflower walks and bird watching sojourns in southwest Virginia. This ignited her love of nature. As a city boy from Honolulu, Hawaii, I’ve traveled the world for the United States Air Force. From my perspective, the environment was something you defended, drove over, flew over, or if you were in the Army, walked over. Nature was something to be overcome. I met Emily in church a few days after my last deployment, fittingly enough at Flower Festival Sunday. She gave me an appreciation of



of maturity to benefit more wildlife species. Tuesday afternoon was spent with Bemidji plant ecologist, George-Ann Maxson, exploring the plants and trees along the Old Indian Trail. George-Ann also treated the class to many insect and bird stories along the way.

Wednesday began with a very dynamic PhD student from Grand Forks, ND, Lynda LaFond, who is a small mammal biologist. She had placed several Sherman live-traps near the Discovery Center and baited them with peanut butter. The wily critters of Tamarac found ways to get the peanut butter without getting caught, but one bear left a giant tooth hole in the side of the trap. Lynda presented a lively overview of food webs, foraging theory, reproductive strategies, skull interpretation and more. Wednesday afternoon was all about water quality, watersheds, and using aquatic insects to help interpret water quality. Can you picture nineteen students gleefully scraping nets along the bottom of the Ottertail River on a sunny June day? Aquatic Biologist, Jared House, helped everyone identify their insects, with caddis fly larvae and water scorpions generating lots of interest. Gina Kemper, Tamarac Biological Technician, shared her water sampling expertise with the class and gave a good overview of how the data are used.

Thursday began with local birders, Nancy Henke and Steve Midthune, leading students to several local hotspots in and near Tamarac NWR to view waterfowl such as rust-necked grebes and loons and elsewhere scarlet tanagers and several warblers. The outing was followed by lunch at Chippewa picnic area. The afternoon was spent largely working on the students' Capstone Projects, although some time was carved out for a Tamarac Watch, a quiet reflective time to write, draw or simply enjoy the beauty of Tamarac NWR.

On Friday, Dr. Stephen Carlson, with the University of Minnesota and a staff member of the Minnesota Master Naturalist Program, watched the class present seven group Capstone Projects and discussed next steps in becoming a volunteer. To maintain their certification, each volunteer must donate forty hours a year doing such things as helping with education programs, interpretation, citizen science, helping in an office, seed collecting, or invasive species removal for just some examples.

This class was organized by trained MNAT instructors: Kelly Blackledge, Tamarac Visitor Services Manager, Connie Carlson and Nancy Brennan, Minnesota Master Naturalist Volunteers. It is hoped that all of the class members who took "Big Woods, Big Rivers" will find a niche in which to explore, teach, and conserve our natural resources.



Master Naturalist participants learned how to conduct a macro-invertebrate study on south Chippewa Lake.



Tamarac Wildlife Biologist Wayne Brininger explains the ecosystem classification resources used in habitat management projects.



Small mammal specialist Linda LaFond checks one of the traps that was set overnight. Photo by Denise Warweg.

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nature, so that when I heard the term naturalist, I googled it, and up popped "Missouri Master Naturalist." Our adventure had begun.

Completing the Missouri Master Naturalist course in the fall of 2015. I participated in honeysuckle hacks, as well as volunteering at the Endangered Wolf Center in St. Louis. Pursuing our interest in wolves, we headed north and completed the Wisconsin Master Naturalist course. We volunteered and conducted wolf howls and carnivore tracking surveys for Wisconsin DNR. Learning that the Wisconsin program was based on the Minnesota model, we headed north again and enrolled at Tamarac. We did not know what treasure awaited us. Within our first hour on Tamarac, we were thrilled to see our first loon. Three weeks later, we took part in the annual loon survey, our first volunteer activity as Minnesota Master Naturalists.

The training we received at Tamarac NWR was first rate. The facilities, from the Discovery Center to the refuge itself, were immaculate, well maintained, and abundant in flora and fauna. Equally important, however, were the people we met and relationships we formed. Our instructors, classmates, and mentors were knowledgeable, welcoming, and passionate. Their love of nature and dedication to the environment were inspiring. As we all know, natural things take hard work. Organizations such as the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Friends of Tamarac are critical if we wish to pass on our refuges and natural areas to the next generation. Tamarac is being cared for by dedicated, skilled staff, and volunteers. We hope to contribute to its preservation and growth in the years to come.

# VOLUNTEER VIBES

by Janice Bengtson

(Janice\_Bengtson@fws.gov or 218-844-1756)

The definition of service is “the action of helping or doing work for someone.” Here at Tamarac, we are so fortunate that we have people--you, our volunteers, who thrive on service. Without you, we simply would not be able to meet our goals or accomplish our priority projects. Kudos to all of you for making a difference for wildlife and people.

A shout out to those who conducted spring waterfowl surveys and grouse drumming surveys: Ken Mattson, Larry Anderson, Mark Geihl, Dan Grandbois .

Mowing of our service trails was completed by our awesome team of mowers: Luverne Ehnert, Larry Aarestad, Bob Brockmann, Dean Kragerud, Art Bakker.

**Thanks to volunteers who conducted the Loon, Grebe and Tern Survey:** Steve & Arlene Furuseth, Larry Michelson, Fran and Ken Mattson, Steve and Diane Midthune, Art Bakker, Mark and Sue Giehl, Pete Olson, Kay and Howard Lohman, Sel Jenkins, Emily Lehr, Bill Wickum, Dave Welte, Mark and Deb Ford, Shannon and Alan Jones, Lee

Kensinger, Cole Simonson, James Simonson. They had some beautiful days to be out on the refuge. A special thanks goes out to Arlene Furuseth for coordinating the survey for the 3rd year.

**Wild Wednesdays** are going strong once again! This program is organized and led entirely by our volunteers! Thanks to our leaders Connie Carlson, Denise Warweg, Janet Bridgers for their creative lessons. And thanks to our assistants who help keep everything on track: Shelly Stearns, Pam Benedict, Shirley Strand, Val Alland, Tony McLeod, Lauren Kemper. Janet Bridgers is doing an awesome job as coordinator.

Congratulations to Nancy Brennan and Connie Carlson for a hugely successful Master Naturalist Class held here at Tamarac.

**Welcome new volunteers:** Tony McLeod, Sel Jenkins, Emily Lehr, Cole Simonson, James Simonson. It is great to have you on board!

**Wanted:** 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! Aquatic Invasive Species Educators- Become part of the “A” Team. Must be available some Saturday mornings; work in teams on a rotating basis throughout summer. Fall Festival planning committee members- assist the staff and Friends in planning this annual family event which takes place September 29. Please contact me if you are interested in being part of the planning team.

Recruitment efforts continue by the Friends of Tamarac and refuge staff. Kudos to Tim Kessler, Dave Schneider, Sue Braun, Gerald Schumacher, Robb Larson for your time. They have hosted a booth at Central Market, provided volunteer information at local restaurants, will participate in the county fair and will also connect with MState students later this summer.

**The Volunteer Recognition Picnic** will be held on Thursday August 23rd. It is always a fun evening and one of the few opportunities for all our volunteers to get together and celebrate accomplishments. This year’s theme is “Lumberjack/North Woods. Wear your best lumber Jack or Jill attire!

## MEET MARK AND DEB FORD



Mark and Deb are resident volunteers at Tamarac. With them, they bring an incredible array of volunteer experiences! They have volunteered for the US Forest Service in Georgia, Colorado, Washington, Oregon, Minnesota, and Utah. Their favorite was at the Dixie National Forest in Utah (just outside of Bryce Canyon National Park) at Red Canyon Visitor Center. They liked it so much that they were there for three summers. They have also volunteered at Santa Anna and Hagerman Refuges in Texas and Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge in Florida. Most of their duties focused on visitor services along with some maintenance. Here their duties include a combination of visitor services and maintenance. Mark keeps the entrances and historical sites looking sharp.

He mows and mows! Deb enjoys working at the visitor center and keeps our kiosks stocked and restrooms tidy.

Both Mark and Deb grew up in Ohio (though Deb was actually born in Detroit Lakes). Mark is from the “snow belt” area of Ohio growing up in Chardon near Lake Erie. Deb grew up in Delaware just north of Columbus. Mark and Deb met while attending training for Ohio state parks. She was a naturalist and he was a park manager. While moving from park to park for Mark’s job, Deb continued to be a naturalist stationed with Mark at other nearby parks. Deb was also a museum curator for several years and even worked in sales and catering at a Holiday Inn. Later she worked at a research and development company, working her way up from receptionist to facilities manager. Mark’s last position was the equipment administrator for Ohio parks. Deb and Mark retired in 2000, held four yard sales, sold their house, and went full time in their RV. They have volunteered at 19 different sites mostly during the summers while volunteering with the Nomads in the winter (a volunteer labor source for United Methodist organizations.) They reconstructed

churches and homes and provided disaster relief after Hurricane Katrina in Mississippi and floods in Pensacola.

Both Mark and Deb enjoy birding, hiking, and antiquing. Mark has a special interest in trains, so they are always stopping at train depots and train museums. He also enjoys carving walking sticks, wood spirits (old wise faces in wood) and gourds. Deb enjoys reading and counted cross stitch. Obviously, both love to travel and see the country. They have visited every state except Hawaii.

Having previously volunteered at Chippewa National Forest, Deb and Mark wanted to return to Minnesota. They enjoy all the wildflowers and wildlife Tamarac has to offer. They already have next summer’s adventure planned. They are actually taking a real vacation traveling for a couple months to Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick – a dream trip they have been planning for some time. We are happy that Mark and Deb found their way back to Minnesota to spend time at Tamarac and represent the refuge.

# MOVIES AND ACTIVITIES

## **Wild Wednesdays: 10:00 am**

**June-August.** Explore the world of nature with your child during this hour long adventure geared for 3-7 year olds. Meet at the Discovery Center.

**Wildlife Excursions:** Explore the refuge with a knowledgeable guide. Tours will be offered **every Thursday June-August at 10:00 am.** Search for wildlife and learn about the cultural and natural history of the refuge on this two hour driving tour.



## **Sunday August 5, 12:00-5:00 pm**

### **Dragonfly Workshop presented by the Minnesota Dragonfly Society**

Discover the World of Dragonflies! This FREE workshop is a hands-on way to get introduced to the identification of dragonflies and damselflies. Come prepared for the weather, rain or shine! Also bring rubber boots or wading shoes, a lunch, water bottle and whatever else you will need for the day. Nets and field guides will be available for loan. Other supplies provided. This workshop will be conducted indoors and outdoors. Meet at the Discovery Center. **Register by calling 218-844-1756.**

**Sunday August 5, 2:00 pm Movie:**  
***Fortress of the Bears***



## **Saturday August 11, 12:00-5:00 pm** **Fun Fungi and Mushroom Workshop**

John Lamprecht, president of the MN Mycological Society will guide you on a mushroom identification journey! This workshop is designed to help you develop the skills and confidence to begin collecting, identifying and safely eating wild edible mushrooms. The first part of the class will be indoors and then we will go on a "foray" in the woods. Bring a snack, water, camera, notebook, bug spray. Field guides will be provided. Please call 218-844-1756 to sign up for this free workshop.



## **Sunday August 12, 2:00 pm**

**Movie: *First Flight, A Mother Hummingbird's Story***

## **Sunday August 19, 2:00 pm**

**Movie: *Beavers, the Biggest Dam Movie You Ever Saw!***

## **Sunday August 26, 2:00 pm**

**Movie: *Disney Nature: Bears***

## **Sunday September 2, 2:00 pm**

**Movie: *The American Experience: The Civilian Conservation Corps.***



## **Sunday September 9, 2:00 pm** **Kayak Tour**

Experience the beauty of an early autumn day on Blackbird Lake. Join a refuge ranger and volunteer to explore nature during this time of change. Meet at the boat access for this leisurely 1.5 hour cruise. Bring your own kayak or canoe. Life jackets are required.

**2:00 pm Movie: *Mino-Bimadiziwin: The Good Life***

## **Sunday September 16, 2:00 pm**

**Movie: *American Experience: Ansel Adams***

## **Sunday September 23, 2:00 pm**

**Movie: *Wild Ways***

## **Sunday September 30, 2:00 pm**

**Movie: *Planet Earth –Seasonal Forests***

## **Saturday September 22**

### **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.

## **Saturday September 29, 10:00-3:00** **Annual Fall Festival**

Join us for a day to celebrate wildlife conservation. Guided tours, children's activity trail, photo contest exhibit and more! Lunch will be available for sale by the Friends of Tamarac.

**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 educate, interpret, protect and restore the natural and cultural resources of Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge.*

Refuge Website:

[www.fws.gov/refuge/tamarac](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/tamarac)



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While there may be 10,000 lakes to choose from in Minnesota, Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge offers a uniquely pristine experience on the water. Lakes open to summer canoeing or kayaking on the refuge include North Tamarac Lake, Blackbird Lake, Two Island Lake, Wauboose Lake, and Lost Lake. Be sure to protect the lakes from invasive species and clean and dry your canoe or kayak before launching on the refuge.