



WETLAND'S GAZETTE

Volume 11, Issue 2

August 2015

"Fall Family Festival" On Grandparents' Day

Sunday

September 13, 2015

11am-2pm

Bring your whole family for a day of fun at the Mead Wildlife Area Visitor Center.



Activities will include:

♦ Live Music Presentation-1 pm

With Tom Pease

Tom has an infectious sense of fun and community building. With movement, sign language, humor, and joy, he creates concerts that leave audiences laughing and singing. His sessions explore the role of music in shaping our lives and the world we live in. Tom connects and inspires with every show he does.

- ♦ Wildflower & Butterfly walk – Noon
 - ♦ Animal & nature crafts -- 11-1pm
 - ♦ Walk and Explore the Nature Trails:
 - Audubon Prairie
 - Turkey Foot
 - Ephemeral Boardwalk
 - ♦ Enjoy the scenery from the New observation decks
 - ♦ Scavenger hunt the historical exhibit
 - ♦ Tour the "Green Energy" Visitor Center
- **Bring your binoculars and camera**



Sponsored by: Aldo Leopold Audubon Society & Friends of the Mead/McMillan

***Admission is **free**, but donations are always appreciated!

For directions & more Information visit our website:

www.meadwildlife.org

Friends of the Mead/McMillan

Officers

- President—Jeremiah Smith
Wausau 572-6372
Email: Jere1683@gmail.com
- Vice-President —Don Ebbers
Stevens Point 347-0293
- Secretary—Jim Peterson
Auburndale 652-3143
- Treasurer – John Shippy
Junction City 457-2575

Directors:

- Matt Ahles
- Marlene Furo
- Joan Dickrell
- Justin Guthman
- Jerry Harvey
- Lorraine Michalski
- Eileen Riehle
- Arne Ruha
- Dick Shepherd

Please Note: We are currently looking for people to fill the vacancies on the Board. If interested please contact Jeremiah Smith for an application.

DNR Staff on board:

- Brian Peters,
Project Manager
- Pam Resech, Educator
Office 457-6771 ext. 2

Webmasters:

- Malcolm Gold
- Kaylee Lietz

Newsletter Editor:

- Dave Grabski
dgrabski@charter.net



New Board Members

Articles by Marlene Furo & Arne Ruha

Photos by Pam Resech

Joan Dickrell

Joan lives with her husband Jim in the Village of Milladore where she grew up. She and Jim have two daughters, Tracy and Kelly, and four grandchildren. She and Jim enjoy golfing and throwing horseshoes.

Joan has always been a very busy lady. Beside teaching school or working as a teacher's aide, she is active in her community. She's been the Easter Bunny at the Village of Milladore's Easter Egg Hunt for many years, and on the Park Committee. Joan is also active in church activities by making soup for the soup suppers, and helping with church dinners.

Joan has spent many hours volunteering at the Mead as a greeter, cooking for the pancake breakfast and the picnic, being on the Spooktacular Planning Committee, helping with the pumpkin decorating at Spooktacular, crafts during story time, helping with education groups, and so many other things. As a teacher, she brought her class to the Mead and one of the activities for the day would be to weed the butterfly garden located at the top of the Amphitheater.

Joan has been a very dedicated volunteer and will be an asset to the Friends Board.



Mathew Ahles

The Friends of the Mead/McMillan Wildlife Area would like to welcome Matthew Ahles of Mosinee as a new member to the Friends of the Mead/McMillan Board. Matthew comes to us with a variety of skills and experiences in the marketing and accounting field. Currently employed at CBC, Matthew has had over 11 years of experience in the business field. His skills in strategic sales, marketing, finance, and business development will be a great addition to the Friends.

Matthew is an avid outdoorsman who has spent a lot of time hunting and fishing both on and off the Mead property. Matthew is a great addition to the Friends of the Mead/McMillan, and looks forward to contributing to all that the Friends do to help the Mead/McMillan Wildlife Area.

Welcome aboard Matthew!



Habitat Happenings and Facilities Features

Brian Peters, Property Supervisor

Wetlands: An experimental cattail burn was conducted in March on North Smoky Hill flowage in an attempt to reduce the density of cattail in that impoundment. A wet period in spring and early summer caused some minor flooding and delayed plans for several flowage water level draw downs and dike repair work. As conditions dried out in July, much dike repair work was accomplished with a lot more to do, and water level manipulations were completed. The flowage vegetation is looking good and waterfowl production seems to have done well. Brush and trees are growing fast on dikes and other areas. Treatments with herbicide, cutting and burning are methods used to control this succession in selected locations.

Grasslands: Two prairie fields were burned in May. Prairie chicken surveys were completed in April and the Mead area population remained stable, but is still at a very low level compared to historic highs.

Facilities: Maintenance of facilities and equipment is a constant. Some repairs have been completed and other needs are in process. A replacement DNR fleet excavator was obtained, but it was soon discovered that it too needs extensive repair work. These issues seem to be chronic and sap time and effort away from dike maintenance needs. Plans for visitor center parking expansion are being considered.

Miscellaneous Happenings: Last fall Mead Technician Patrice Evers designed aquatic invasive species information panels for waterfowl hunter education. These designs may be adopted by the state of Minnesota for use there. Over the next year the DNR is undergoing a realignment of its organizational structure. How this may affect the field operations is yet to be seen. Many retirements are occurring in DNR including the West Central District Wildlife Supervisor Kris Belling who retired in July. The annual duck banding and waterfowl surveys will be starting up in mid to late August.

McMillan Marsh

Kyle Christianson

The Marsh has been a busy place this spring and summer. An organized group of volunteers have been hard at work conducting invasive and wildlife surveys. They have also collected garbage, mowed dikes, and constructed and installed bat boxes. Thank you to all the volunteers for your efforts this field season.

Habitat work taking place this summer included a complete drawdown of Main flowage and partial drawdown's of Pool 2, Pool 6, and Reservoir. The primary reason was to compress/reduce the bottom organic layer and expose wetland plant seeds for germination. Marsh hay will continue to be cut to maintain grassland habitat. Brush control on the dikes is becoming a priority. Our dikes not only serve to hold water but also double as access/trails throughout the property. Failure of our dike infrastructure would reduce use through limited access.

Remember that the bike trail closes August 31st. Please follow the rules as the Marsh is used by many people.

Hunting seasons are fast approaching. Early Goose, Teal, and Dove all begin September 1st. For more information on hunting and trapping seasons, visit the DNR website at dnr.wi.gov.



Spring/Summer Education

Articles by Kaylee Lietz Photos by Pam Resech



This spring and summer was full of exciting educational opportunities for many schools and the public as well. Spring education was another great success with the various topics from wetlands to forestry to prairie studies. New to the education this year was a visit from Janet Moore, a UWSP Graduate Assistant, who taught Columbus Catholic students about Tree Identification through drawing and sketching. "Drawing as a Learning Tool", was a very unique and interesting lesson that brought a new perspective to how to look at nature in detail.

Another new lesson that was introduced was thanks to help from Sue Hall and Gail Pucci. "Recycling Lesson" introduced students to the chemical make-

up of plastics, what the different numbers for recycling mean, and the future of plastics. This lesson was introduced with the Marathon Adventure Academy and Marshfield's Madison Elementary 5th graders. This interesting lesson had students discovering how plastics are formed through the forced air process and the difference between monomers and polymers.

With the wonderful weather that we had this summer, some lessons were resurrected. An example of this was our Solar Ovens lesson. Marathon Adventure Academy got to try their hand at creating their own solar ovens made out of a shoe box, newspaper, and aluminum foil. The goal of this lesson was to learn about the use of solar energy, how to harness it, and see if the students were able to "cook" a ball of cookie dough and a piece of hot dog. Many did really well, and even though the cookies weren't cooked all the way, all enjoyed the gooey treat!

So with these new lessons and some resurrected old ones, the Mead's spring education is always changing introducing new lesson and topics to the various schools that come to visit.



Summer Story Time

This July had the 3rd Annual Little Naturalist story times. Bees, Bears, Ducklings, and Frogs were the topics for those fun Thursday mornings. All story times were well attended with numbers on the incline. Participants got to hear stories, do some crafts to take home, touch and feel a variety of items related to the stories, and go on fun explorative hikes about the various topics. All enjoyed this fun family time to get out and explore the Mead. Thank you to all who attended.

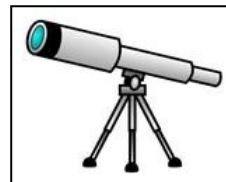


New Event "A Star Gazing Party"

Hosted by "Stars R Us"-Mike Ziemke

Ever look up at the night sky and wonder what exactly you are looking at?

The Wausau Astronomy group "Stars R Us" would like to invite you to their Outdoor Event "A Star Gazing Party".



Thursday Night September 10, 2015, Event starts at 7pm

Come on out to the Stanton W. Mead Education and Visitor Center for an opportunity to learn about what is out there in our universe and develop a better understanding of what it is in the night sky. Club will provide telescopes.

List of Activities:

7:00pm Introductions

7:20pm Constellations

7:45pm Viewing Stars/Constellations,
Star Clusters/ Galaxies, Double Stars



Please feel free to bring your own binoculars, telescopes, and flashlights.

***If you bring a **flashlight**, please have **red** covers over the bulb, white light dilates pupils and makes it hard to see the sky.

Event will occur whether conditions are good or bad, if it's a cloudy evening we will have an indoor program. So grab everyone that would be interested and come out for this wonderful **new** star gazing opportunity!

Admission is Free!

For more information, please call Pam Resech at 715-457-6771 ext. 2
or Mike Ziemke at 715-803-0356



News in Brief

Articles & Photos by Kaylee Lietz and Pam Resech

Winged Wonders May Event

Winged Wonders (Sunday 5/3) this year was another great opportunity for many to come out and learn about the native pollinators. This year the guest speaker was Jen Redell from the Wisconsin Bat Program. She talked about Wisconsin's native bats and their importance. She also brought with her a live bat to give visitors an opportunity to see one up close. Winged Wonders also had a basket raffle and bake sale to help with the education program plus many volunteers from Portage County and Wood County Master Gardeners. Thank you to all who attended and helped. Keep watching for the next Winged Wonders event date.



Shotgun Basics for Women



On Saturday June 6th, the Mead was the site of "Shotgun Basics for Women", an all women shotgun course sponsored by the Wetland Conservation League. The course was taught by wildlife technician Patrice Eyers, and gave a woman's view into the world of shotguns and how confusing it can be for women. This course taught women about the basic parts of a shotgun and how it works, how to select the right ammunition for their shotgun, finding a shotgun that fits them, how to pattern their guns to be more successful, and ultimately clay shooting and putting it all together. This workshop was the first of its kind here at the Mead and the positive feedback received from the participants has this course happening again next year. The date is still to be determined. This is a great way to learn from fellow women

who have been where many are when they first are introduced into the hunting world without feeling overwhelmed. So if you know of any women who are interested in shotguns and want to learn more have them call Patrice Eyers at 715-457-6771 ext. 5 to learn when the next class will occur and how to sign up.

Summer Social Volunteer & Membership Picnic

Even though it was humid the weather cooperated for the Friends of the Mead/McMillan and the Mead Wildlife Area Staff to hold the Volunteer/Membership Appreciation picnic (Sunday 7/26). Brats, hot dogs, a variety of goodies, and great conversations made the day a wonderful success. Many partook in the wagon ride out to Townline to discover the property up close. While on the wagon ride visitors saw cormorants, eagles, deer, pelicans, and many other wetland creatures. All who attended enjoyed their time. This is a way for the Friends of the Mead/McMillan to thank their members for their support and for all of the Mead staff to say "Thank you" to the many volunteers who do so much to help with many varied tasks! We sincerely appreciate all you do for the Mead and McMillan wildlife areas! Thank you to all who attended.





One Day in the Life of a Volunteer

Article by Margie Austin & Gem Kaiser

Photos by Pam Resech

Today was our first day as volunteer greeters for the Mead Wildlife Center. What an adventure. We started our day with a well thought out and easy to follow orientation given to us by long time volunteer Lorraine.



Margie Austin

And then the visitors came. Wow, did we meet some interesting people from all parts of the state. Starting with two gentleman from the Petenwell Lakes Association who stopped to see what all had been created with charitable donations. An amateur photographer from Brown Deer, WI was in the area at a conference. A young couple that works at the Schmeckle Reserve in Stevens Point stopped in. Such a variety of interested individuals. And then a computer pro and his family stopped and he informed us that the Mead website had been hacked and someone added some interesting ad banners to the home page.

Gem Kaiser & Sue Meyer



We talked to others that day too. The overall theme was that people love the facility and it makes a great starting point for them to get an overview of the property and where they can explore from there.

When our day came to an end we were in for one more bit of excitement. We followed the exit plan and left the building but being new comers we double-checked the door and it was not locking. Well let me tell you if you go back in the building all of the alarms go off and you get to talk to the alarm company. Thankfully for us Lorraine had an emergency contact in Don Furo who came and locked the door for us. We decided that it just added to the experience. It was a fun first day!

Great Gift Idea too!

If you need to renew your membership or have friends who are interested in joining the Friends of the Mead/McMillan please use the following membership form:

*****Current** members please use form to update any changes to your mailing and email address, or phone number.

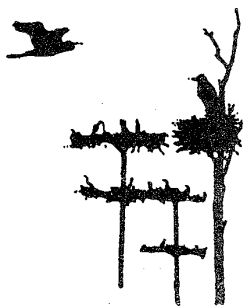
The annual membership fee is \$30. Make Check payable to Friends of the Mead/McMillan.

Mail to: Mead Wildlife Area, S2148 Cty Hwy S, Milladore, WI, 54454.

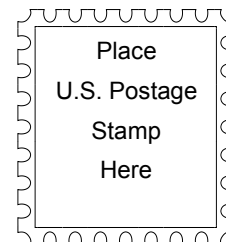
Renewal _____ New Member _____ Gift for New Member _____

Name	
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City	
State	
Zip	
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Thank you for your support with our environmental endeavors!



**Friends of the
Mead/McMillan
Association, Inc.**
52148 County S
Milladore, WI 54454



Mailing Address Label

Please check the label of this newsletter as your membership might have expired. If there is no date on it, you are receiving this newsletter free for now. If your membership is up for renewal or you would like to become a member visit our website; www.meadwildlife.org or stop by the Center.

Wetland's Gazette



Spooktacular

"Smokey Bear" & Friends

Mark Your Calendar to Join us for our 5th Annual
non-scary family fun night **Halloween** event:

Activities Include:

Decorate a pumpkin or cookie

Warm-up by the campfire

Interact with Smokey Bear and his Wildlife Friends outside

Play games for prizes & candy

Create a Halloween Craft



Date: Saturday October 17, 2015

Time: 5:30pm-8:00pm (Please Note: New Time!)**

Admission is **Free** with a non-perishable food item, or \$2.00 per person

Sponsored by the Friends of the Mead/McMillan and the Mead Staff

For More Information: Visit our website: www.meadwildlife.org

Contact: Pam Resch at 715-457-6771 ext. 2