



# WETLAND'S GAZETTE

Volume 12, Issue 1

March 2016

## Volunteer Open House by Pam Resech

**Saturday April 9 10am-2pm:** Come join the volunteers and Staff of the Mead for a day of fun with kids' activities, tours, and more!

**NEW** this year will be a presentation by Kristine Rued-Clark about her adventures hiking the Ice Age Trail. She is the co-author of the book "Adventures on Wisconsin's Ice Age Trail" along with Sylvia Oberle. There will be book signing sessions before and after her presentation.

The Mead is also looking for volunteer help with our Greeter and Education programs. If interested in getting involved, please bring your calendar. If you cannot make the Open House, call and set up an appointment.



## "Bike Your Brunch Off" Event by Pam Resech

**Sunday May 15 11am- 3pm:** Before our event begins start your day off right with "Brunch on the Farm" at Lonely Oak Farm, 11946 County Road S, Milladore. Joel Kuehnhold has kindly offered to provide a brunch at his farm from 10am-2pm to help kick-off this fun filled day. For more information about the menu and price you may contact Joe Kuehnhold at 715-321-0229, or visit his website: <http://lonelyoakfarm.net>.



After brunch head over to the Mead Education & Visitor Center. Bring your bike as this is also the opening day for our bike trail. Great activities planned; from yoga to crafts, to bike tours and tasty treats, and special presentations; by the Groundwater Guardian group and by Point Area Bike-John Pawlak, so there is something for the whole family.



The event at the Mead is Free and Open to the public. For questions or more information contact Pam Resech at [pamela.resech@wisconsin.gov](mailto:pamela.resech@wisconsin.gov) or 715-457-6771 ext. 2. or visit the website: [www.meadwildlife.org](http://www.meadwildlife.org).

## Friends of the Mead/McMillan

### Officers

- *President—Jeremiah Smith  
Wausau 572-6372  
Email: Jere1683@gmail.com*
- *Vice-President —Justin  
Guthman Mosinee  
414-491-3862*
- *Secretary—Jim Peterson  
Auburndale 652-3143*
- *Treasurer – John Shippy  
Junction City 457-2575*

### Directors:

- Matt Ahles
- Joan Dickrell
- Marlene Furo
- 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:

- Kaylee Lietz
- Jim Peterson

### Newsletter Editor:

- Dave Grabski  
[dgrabski@charter.net](mailto:dgrabski@charter.net)



## **Retiring Board Member – Don Ebbers**

**by Don Fox      Photo by Pam Resech**

Don served on the Friends Board from March 2011 to January 2016. During that time he held several Board positions. He served on the Special Projects Committee each year while on the Board and was Chairperson of that Committee in 2013. He served as Vice-President in 2014 and 2015. Don actively participated in Friends sponsored events while on the Board.

Besides serving on the Friends Board, Don was a member of the Wednesday Wildlife Assistant volunteer work crew assisting DNR Staff with needed general wildlife area field work at Mead and the McMillan Marsh Wildlife Areas.

During the past five years Don also donated many hours as well as his construction skills in helping plan and complete the following major projects: The Ephemeral Boardwalk including the Scrape and Sedge Observation Platforms; The Little Birch Rookery Project; The Tom Meier Habitat Diversity Observation Platform; and the Dragonfly Wildlife Photographer Blind. He also helped construct the Mead Main gate and the McMillan Marsh Road parking area kiosk. If there was a construction project, Don was there to help plan and complete it.

We thank Don for his donation of time and talent as a Friends Board member and Wildlife Assistant Volunteer. While no longer on the Board, we all are glad that Don plans to assist the DNR Staff and Friends by continuing to serve as a Wildlife Assistant Volunteer, be involved in future construction projects, and keep enjoying the friendship of the Wednesday Work Crew.



Don helping with the construction of the Wildlife Scrape Observation Deck

## **Friends' Fundraiser-Brat Fry**

**by Lorraine Michalski**

This year we are having Four Brat Fry Fundraisers at Festival Foods in Marshfield. If you enjoy volunteering with the friendly Friends just drop me an email: [sar2ge@gmail.com](mailto:sar2ge@gmail.com) and tell me your specialty, anything from set up to clean up. More volunteers mean shorter shifts.



The dates are Saturday **July 16**, Sunday **July 17**, Saturday **September 24**, and Sunday **September 25** from **10:00am to 6:00pm**.

If you are unable to volunteer please stop at Festival's Farmers' Market which will be open until **1:00pm**. You can get your garden fresh produce then buy some lunch before you head for home.



## **“Winged Wonders” Event with Stan Tekiela**

**By Eileen Riehle**

The Friends of the Mead/McMillan Association, Inc. are very pleased and excited to have Stan Tekiela join us, for Winged Wonders on **June 26, 2016**, from **11:00am--3:00pm**.

**Stan Tekiela** is a naturalist, wildlife photographer and the originator of many popular state-specific field guides. He has authored more than 100 field guides, nature books and audio CDs, presenting many species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, trees, wildflowers and cacti. Stan has written many of the popular state-specific field guides, such as the Birds of Wisconsin Field Guide, Wildflowers of Wisconsin, and Trees of Wisconsin.



He is also a well-known columnist, speaker and radio personality, his syndicated column appears in over 20 newspapers and his wildlife programs are broadcast on a number of Midwest radio stations. He is a member of the North American Nature Photography Association and Canon Professional Services. Over the years, Stan has received various national and regional awards for his books and photographs.

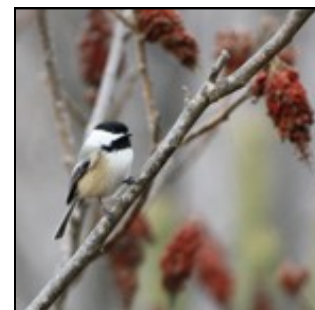
**Stan’s Presentation will be from 12:30-1:30pm**, with Book signing before and after.

Stan will be speaking about the **Uncommon Facts about Common Wisconsin Birds**.

This fun and entertaining talk will challenge your thoughts about some of the common birds that visit your backyard feeders, including some of the birds that people love to hate. Did you know that American Crows use tools to find food? This is but one of the fun facts you will learn about. Stan will challenge your preconceived ideas about some common birds such as the European Starling, the American Crow and much, much more. After this presentation, you will never look at these birds the same way again.

There will be numerous areas for children to make crafts, etc., before, during and after this presentation. Along with other entertainment, for the children.

This event is **Free and Open** to the public. Thank you to the following sponsors that helped make this presentation possible. Donations during the event are also always greatly appreciated.



Black-capped Chickadee  
by Pam Resch



Medford, Wisconsin



Wood County Chapter, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin



YWCA Garden Club  
Wausau, Wisconsin



## Wildlife Conservation Education

Article by Beth Haffenbredl & Photos by Pam Resech

Mrs. Barb Krautkramer and Mrs. Rachel Mroczenski, teachers from Marathon Elementary brought their third grade students to the Mead this winter as a kick-off to their "Winter Warriors" project. The goal was

to learn about Wisconsin birds, their adaptations, heredity, and to think like a scientist.



Beth teaching the lesson "Fill the Bill" to the students. Students are discovering that bird beaks are adapted for specific types of food.

The final product for the project was to create and publish a bird field guide.



Student's field guides:  
"Wild Wisconsin Birds"



A new lesson that was taught this winter was "Scent Tracking". Students from Washington Elementary in Marshfield, used flavored extracts to simulate animal scents, then they had to play a snow game in which "predators" tracked a "prey" by following its scent.

**Summer 2016 Little Naturalist's Story-times:** Bring your kids and family out for a day of fun at the Mead Wildlife Area. Each day will involve hands on activities from crafts and outside adventures to interactive story telling. All Dates are Thursdays and times are 10am-Noon, rain or shine.

**July 7:** "Sky Hunters": Birds of prey, raptors, aerial predators, sky stalkers are all names for these fierce hunters. Join us as we explore the amazing world of these sky hunters.

**July 14:** "Incredible Insects": Did you know that scientist believe there could be anywhere between six and ten millions different types on insects in the world? Join us as we take a bug's eye view of the world and see why they are so incredible.

**July 21:** "Wild Edibles": There are delicious treats all around us in nature, you just have to know where to look. Join us as we learn the basics of hunting for wild edibles from proper identification to preparation, this will be a tasty event.

**July 28:** "Scatology": Ew! Why would we want to study animal scat (a.k.a. poop)? Well because it can help reveal the stories of the wildlife that surround us. Join us as we giggle our way through this smelly topic to discover what scat can actually teach us.



### Join Friends of the Mead/McMillan!

#### New Memberships eligible for a \$50 gift card drawing

Consider investing in the Friends of the Mead/McMillan Wildlife organization to help support preservation and educational efforts here at the Mead and McMillan Wildlife Areas. We are dedicated to improving and maintaining the beauty that surrounds us.

For more information about Events at the Mead Education & Visitor Center go to [www.meadwildlife.org](http://www.meadwildlife.org); "What's Happening". For a Membership brochure click on the Friends Group tab.



## **The Big Picture, an Overview**

### **By Brian Peters-Property Supervisor**

It was something that I have not seen happen before . . . . . significant rainfall in December. It caused McMillan and Mead to have flooding conditions. We are used to flooding. It happens every year in spring with snowmelt, and sometimes in summer and fall if heavy rains move in over us. But it doesn't happen in December. At least it hasn't before. There was plenty of water in the flowages and we actually had to release water from some. No major issues resulted except it delayed our ability to work on projects that require drier conditions and frozen ground. Two timber sale harvests did not happen because of the soft wet conditions in the woods. One logger ran into some difficulty with his operations during the wet period. Two other loggers were able to work on timber harvests after the ground froze later in the winter.

When the weather did turn cold enough to freeze the ground Mead staff were able to work on several dike maintenance projects. This is an ongoing workload that continually needs to be addressed. Most of our extensive dike systems were built in the 1960's and 70's so they are showing their age. This fact, along with the yearly damage caused by tunneling animals is the main reason for recurring repair needs.



Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*

Our annual post-waterfowl season meeting was held in February. It was well attended by over 40 hunters. Mead staff, Patrice Eysers, Bill Hirt and Kyle Christianson put together the program and presented the results of the fall 2015 surveys of waterfowl numbers, hunters' harvests and opinions on rules. Thank you to the volunteers who assisted with the surveys!

The annual DNR/Conservation Congress rule hearings will be held in each county on **April 11<sup>th</sup>**. This year there is a Conservation Congress advisory question regarding repealing one of Mead's special waterfowl hunting rules. All interested persons are encouraged to attend one of the spring hearings to express their opinions and to vote on all proposed rule changes.

## **McMillan Marsh Matters**

### **By Kyle Christianson-Wildlife Technician**

Winter came late and looks to be exiting early. Birds are coming back claiming their spot on the flooded Marsh. Snakes are emerging due to the warm weather. I even saw some bear tracks while out working on water control structures!

Projects this past winter included an active timber sale along Karau and Frey, brushing of some upland hay acres along Mann road, and infrastructure repair of Pool 2 dike.

Spring/Summer work on the marsh to include surveys, tree removal, infrastructure repair, water management, prescribed burning, and timber sale management.

I have a variety of volunteer opportunities available.

Contact me if interested: Kyle Christianson at 715-457-6771 ext.3 or email [kyle.christianson@wisconsin.gov](mailto:kyle.christianson@wisconsin.gov).

See you on the Marsh!





## Hunting and Shooting Education at the Mead

### Article and Photos by Patrice Eyers

The Wetlands Conservation League will once again be hosting several hunting and shooting education programs at the Mead in 2016.

**Shotgunning 101 for Women:** This class is open to women only. It is intended for novice ladies who want to learn the basics of shotgunning. Topics covered in this program include; understanding how your firearm works, shotgun safety, understanding ammunition, how to choose the appropriate ammunition, shotgun chokes, fit, patterning, distance estimation, and shooting technique. This class is open to ladies 12 years old and up. It's a great mother/daughter day!

**Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> from 8:00am – 4:30pm. \$25.00. Registration required.**



Juan Dong & Dave Stanley  
Ladies Shotgunning



Jason Hintz – Wingshooting  
for Migratory Birds

**Wingshooting for Migratory Birds:** An advanced shotgun program that even the most experienced shooters will learn from. This course is designed to improve your shooting skills by providing information about pattern testing, choke/load combinations, shot ballistics, and accurately estimating distance and effective range. It also provides game recovery strategies, approaches to reducing wounding and crippling rates, and increasing harvest rates. Course completion is noted on your DNR Customer ID profile.

**Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> from 8:00am – 4:30pm. \$25.00. Registration required.**

**Learn to Hunt Waterfowl:** 2016 is our 7<sup>th</sup> year offering this program. Youth between the ages of 12 – 15 are in for the experience of a lifetime. Participants learn about the history of waterfowling, wildlife and wetland management, waterfowl identification, hunting techniques, canoe safety, firearm safety, waterfowl regulations. The day is packed with a variety of hands on activities including canoeing, clay shooting, shotgun patterning, decoy setting, and duck/goose calling. All equipment is provided. Sign up early!!!! **\$10.00 Registration required.**

**Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> - Clinic from 8:00am – 5:00pm (lunch provided)**

**Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> – Optional Shooting Practice – 4:30pm – 7:00pm**

**Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> – Mentored hunt – Time arranged with mentor.**



Calling all ducks  
Sabrina Radtke LTH



Canoeing with local Conservation Wardens and Delta Waterfowl



## Volunteering at the Mead Center

by Marlene Furo, Photos by Amy Furo



Rhonda Reigel

My daughter, Rhonda Reigel and I usually volunteer on the opening weekend of the Center and on the last weekend in October. This story happened on the last weekend.

As I drove over to the Center I thought to myself that it was going to be a long four hours as it was drizzling and cold. I was there by myself until Rhonda arrived as she had a previous commitment. To my surprise people came into the Center and looked around and chatted. A father and son from Illinois renewed their Friends membership. Pam had a little project for me to do when I had spare time so I kept busy.

Around one o'clock Rhonda showed up and soon after that the excitement began. A very wet young man came in and asks to make a telephone call. As it was going to be a long distance call one of us let him use our cell phone. He was a University Stevens Point student who was trapping at the Mead and he had locked his keys in his car. The car belonged to his Dad and Dad lived in Milwaukee. Also no one was at home so he just left a message. I thought to myself, we need to get these doors unlocked or we will be here all night or Rhonda or I will be making a trip to Stevens Point. We found a wire hanger and the young man and Rhonda went to see if they could unlock it. No luck. I called my mechanic from Auburndale to see if he could come and unlock the door, but he was out of town. He did give us the name of a locksmith from Marshfield who was kind enough to drive out to the Mead on a Saturday afternoon. He only charged \$40 for the trip and to open the door.

Really the story should end there, but being a student the young man did not have the cash and the locksmith did not take credit cards. Rhonda loaned the student the money and told him she worked at St. Michael's and he could bring her the money on Tuesday as she didn't work on Monday. He was there when she got to work on Tuesday with the money.

## Greeters Needed

by Lorraine Michalski

Marlene Furo and Rhonda Reigel are experienced Greeters. If you are interested in becoming a Greeter we will have a sign-up sheet available at the **Open House** April 9th from 10am-2pm.

Greeter's hours are 11:00am-3:00 pm Saturdays and Sundays starting May 15 through October. The Center is closed on Holiday Weekends.

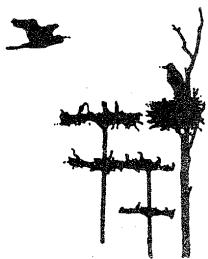
You can volunteer for one day or the whole weekend. Training is provided. Your primary responsibility is opening and locking the Visitor Center. Some days can be very interesting and a bit challenging and other days are extremely quiet so you can take in the sun and read a book.

Experienced Greeters can email me: [sar2ge@gmail.com](mailto:sar2ge@gmail.com) if you can't come to the Open House and sign up.

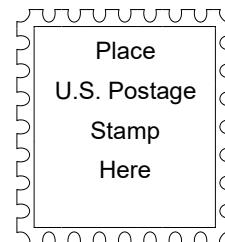
An Orientation Date (TBA) for New Volunteer Greeters will take place after the Open House.



Marlene Furo and Justin Wilke.  
Marlene and Rhonda also volunteer at the Annual Spooktacular Event in October



**Friends of the  
Mead/McMillan  
Association, Inc.**  
S2148 County S  
Milladore, WI 54454



Mailing Address Label

**Attention Members**: Please help keep our records current by providing Friends with changes to your contact information.

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](http://www.meadwildlife.org) or stop by the Center.

## **Wetland's Gazette**

### **Annual Earth Week Clean Up Day at Mead & McMillan Wildlife Areas**

**Saturday, April 16th 9:00am—1:00pm**



Come celebrate Earth Week by helping with our annual spring clean-up day. We hope you will take advantage of this great opportunity to join us in the fun of enjoying nature and helping "spruce-up" the wildlife areas. Your efforts will be rewarded with a lunch!!

To get your assignment, please meet at one of the following areas; for the Mead Wildlife Area-the Center and for McMillan Marsh-the parking lot at the end of Meadow Avenue. We will be working on the following tasks:

- Picking up trash in parking lots and along roadsides, both properties
- Cleaning around the outside of the Mead Center; window sills, bricks, kiosks
- Gardening activities: raking, and mulching at the Mead Center

*Volunteers should bring their own leather gloves and rubber boots. We will provide rubber gloves, safety vests, & garbage bags. Following the clean up, we will provide a lunch of BBQ's on a bun, chips, and soda. If you would like to contribute a dish to pass, it is welcome, but not necessary. Please let us know, if you plan to bring something!*

**\*\*\*To help us coordinate the site activities; Volunteers should RSVP by Monday, April 13th**

**Mead Crew-Pam Resech: 715-457-6771 ext. 2 or email [pamela.resech@wisconsin.gov](mailto:pamela.resech@wisconsin.gov)**

**McMillan Crew-Kyle Christianson: 715-457-6771 ext. 3 or email [kyle.christianson@wisconsin.gov](mailto:kyle.christianson@wisconsin.gov)**