



WETLAND'S GAZETTE

Volume 9, Issue 1

March 2013



Bring Your Family & Friends to the All-You-Can-Eat!! Pancake Breakfast

Saturday May 18, 2013 8:00am-Noon

Mead Wildlife Area Education and Visitor Center
S2148 County Hwy S, Milladore WI

Menu: Pancakes: Blueberry & Buttermilk, Pure Maple Syrup, Pork Sausage, Wisconsin Cheese, Applesauce, Milk/Coffee, Cranberry Juice, & Ice Cream Cups



Adults:\$7.00

6-12:\$3.00

Under 6:Free



***Remember to bring your bikes, binoculars, cameras or canoes to help enjoy your day!

While You are at the Mead Wildlife Area Take Time to:

- ◆ Catch a Wagon Ride/Tour: (8:30, 10, & 11:30am)
- ◆ Ride your bike: Berkhahn Bike Trail Opens: May 15th
- ◆ Walk the Trails: Audubon Prairie Nature Trail, new Turkey foot, & the Ephemeral Boardwalk
- ◆ Enjoy the views from the new Observation Decks
- ◆ Explore the new outdoor Geology Exhibit
- ◆ Tour the Mead "Green" Visitor Center & Historical Exhibit
- ◆ Purchase a "Homemade Goodie" at the Bake Sale table



New this year

Guided Canoe Tours of Berkhahn Flowage (2 hours/tour: 8am, 10am & Noon)

Limit of 15 participants, canoes are provided, may bring your own

(Pre-Registration required) Call Patrice Eysers 715-457-6771 ext. 5

If you would like to help with the **Pancake Breakfast Event**

Contact **Marlene Furo** (Friend's Event Coordinator)

H-(715) 457-6635 C-(715) 223-7066 Email: geof@tds.net

Sponsored by Friends of the Mead/McMillan Association, Inc. and the Mead Staff

All Proceeds Benefit the Mead's Educational Programs

Friends of the Mead/McMillan

Officers

- *President—Don Fox*
Marshfield 676-3115
- *Vice-President—Mark Lewandoski*
Wausau 581-4487
- *Secretary—Jim Peterson*
Auburndale 652-3143
- *Treasurer – John Shippy*
Junction City 457-2575

Directors:

- Doug Aziz
- Don Ebbers
- Susan Ford-Hoffert
- Don Furo
- Marlene Furo
- Sue Hall
- Jerry Harvey
- Ellie Kafka
- Lorraine Michalski
- Lori Schubring
- Jeremiah Smith

DNR Staff on board:

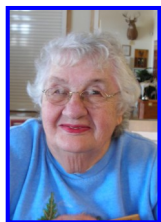
- Brian Peters
Project Manager
- Pam Resech, Educator
Office 457-6771 ext. 2

Webmaster:

- Malcolm Gold

Newsletter Editor:

- Dave Grabski
dgrabski@charter.net





Friends Annual Membership Meeting

Article Don Fox & Photos by Pam Resech & Kaylee Zalewski

Friends of the Mead/McMillan Association, Incorporated currently has 145 members. The overall mission of our grass roots volunteer based organization, founded in 1995, continues to be to promote the Mead and McMillan Wildlife Areas as well to assist with education, interpretive and habitat management activities.

At our annual membership meeting on Saturday January 19, 2013, members reelected for additional two year terms the six current Board of Directors whose terms had expired: Don Ebbers, Don Furo, Marlene Furo, Jerry Harvey, John Shippy and Jeremiah Smith. The membership also reelected President Don Fox, Vice-President Mark Lewandoski, Secretary Jim Peterson and Treasurer John Shippy to one-year terms until January 18, 2014. The current Board of Directors remains at the maximum fifteen as allowed by our Corporate by-laws. Marlene Furo has agreed to become as our new Friends Sponsored Event Coordinator and work with Pam to contact volunteers for the upcoming events, beginning with the Annual Pancake Breakfast-Saturday May 18th from 8am-Noon.

During the business meeting a summary of Friends completed projects and events was presented. In 2012 volunteers reported 2,562 hours of work on these projects and events. Brian Peters, Project Manager, thanked the Friends and all volunteers for the work they have done and continue to do for the Mead and McMillan Marsh Wildlife areas. Some of the upcoming 2013 projects and events were also presented.

John Clare talking about the bobcat capture site.



Pam Resech, Natural Resources Educator, reported that 2,945 students and 1,676 adults participated in on site and 3,385 students and 722 adults participated in off site Mead Wildlife Area Educational Programming in 2012.

After the business meeting John Clare, UWSP

Doug Urban using the radio telemetry equipment to listen for the radio collared bobcat.



College of Natural Resources graduate student, gave an excellent presentation on his bobcat research in Wisconsin and in the Mead/McMillan Marsh Wildlife Areas. After his presentation, John led a tour of the bobcat capture site and provided a very informative demonstration of how radio collar signals and camera monitoring equipment are used in his research.



New Board Member

Article Sue Hall & Photo contributed by Lori Schubring

Getting people interested in nature and the outdoors is one of the main reasons Lori Schubring wanted to become a member of the board of directors of the Friends of the Mead/McMillan Association. She has been interested in all aspects of natural resources since she was a child when her parents taught her to appreciate the outdoors.

Her yard is a certified wildlife habitat and she is a member of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Foundation. As the owner of Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shop in Wausau, Lori brings a lot of marketing and project management expertise to the board. She feels the Mead is an incredible area and would like to see visitors and area residents become more acquainted with this awesome resource.

We are happy to welcome Lori to our board of directors and know she will be an asset to our programs.



Aldo Leopold Weekend Event

Article Marlene Furo & Photo by Pam Resech

He who hopes for spring with upturned eye never sees so small a thing as Draba. He who despairs of spring with down-cast eye steps on it, unknowing. He who searches for spring with his knees in the mud finds it in abundance. A short reading taken from *A Sand County Almanac* written by Aldo Leopold who is honored the first weekend in March by people who love the outdoors.

Ken Blomberg was the person in charge of planning the event at the Mead Center. The day began with volunteers reading their favorite essays from the Almanac. After a break, Gary Zimmer-Biologist from the Ruffed Grouse Society, lead a snowshoe hike and talked about different ways to manage habitats for ruffed grouse, woodcocks and wild turkeys. When the group came back inside, they watched the video "Green Fire" which is a documentary about Aldo Leopold's life and his impact on wildlife management.



An Aldo Leopold Weekend is a program model for bringing your community together around Aldo Leopold's idea of a land ethic. The name "Aldo Leopold Weekend" has its roots in Wisconsin, where annually the first weekend of March has that official designation and Wisconsin communities across the state coordinate events that all happen at the same time. Leopold-themed events have spread far beyond the borders of Wisconsin since the event's inception in 2000.

A visit to Aldo Leopold's shack in Baraboo should be on every nature lover's to do list.

Set aside Saturday March 1, next year to visit the Mead, learn about Aldo Leopold and partake in some new planned activities.



Mead Grounds Association (MGA)

Article Ken Pierce & Photos by Pam Resech

There are three dog clubs that utilize the Mead Dog Training area – Muddy Waters Retriever Club (MWRC), Central Waters Retriever Club (CWRC), and North Central Wisconsin Chapter of the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association (NCWNAVHDA). The primary purpose of each of these clubs is education of dog owners in training their hunting dogs with members participating in numerous training days (30 dates are on the 2013 calendar). Secondly the clubs hold testing and trialing events annually that allow the people and dogs participating in the training sessions to evaluate their progress as well as to generate funds for the Mead Dog Training grounds.

Rick Wilke sending his dog out to retrieve a training decoy



These various clubs enjoy a cooperative, supportive relationship and work together to improve the grounds and manage use, with planning taking place annually at the MGA January meeting. The Current Officers for the Mead Grounds Association are: President –Kenneth Pierce, Vice President–Perry Stewart, Secretary–Sheryle Teppand, and Treasurer–Julie Carlstrom.

The Dog Training Grounds are utilized for training starting in early spring on a daily basis by the MGA Club Members as well as the general public. Club use: 3,500 hours/year (based on average club attendance at events and casual use). These grounds are fully utilized on training days to the point where Club Members are looking for additional training facilities to support the high turnout of members.

The funds raised on training events average \$1200/year, with additional disbursements made on an as-needed basis. Funds are used to maintain and improve the grounds (e.g. mowing, septic pumping, well testing). In addition general grounds maintenance performed by club members averages about 300 hours/year.

The MGA Dog Clubs have had a busy 2012 summer and fall. The Stewardship Grant as proposed has allowed the MGA members to:

- ◆ Double the size of the Existing Shelter and update the roof to low maintenance metal
- ◆ Properly surface the additional parking (overflow on the North side of the road)
- ◆ Improve the current entry parking area by adding additional granite
- ◆ Time donated by the dog club members on the Improvement project to date- 600 hours

The following items are on the agenda for completion in 2013 and early 2014:

1. Cap the ends of the shelter
2. Double the size of the parking at Pool 5. (Clearing and stump removal of a determined area by the DNR near existing parking area)
3. Spread remaining gravel, fill the holes, and build up the existing parking areas





Marshfield Area Community Grant Award

Article Don Fox & Photo by Pam Resech

On January 17, 2013 the Friends of The Mead/McMillan Association Incorporated, received a grant of \$1,270 to fund an all weather information center at the main entrance.

This grant reflects the Marshfield Area Community Foundation's mission: *"Connecting people who care with causes that matter to enrich*

the quality of life in the Marshfield

area". The Foundation gives back money generated from charitable donations for programs and projects in the communities and areas they serve.



The new message center kiosk will provide information to visitors about the wildlife area, rules and regulations, special events, hunting and trapping seasons, and educational and outdoor recreational opportunities at the Mead Wildlife Area. This information will be available to users seven days a week year around.

The Friends thanks the Marshfield Area Community Foundation for their generous donation.

Aldo Leopold Audubon Society Grant Award

Article & Photo by Pam Resech

On March 13, 2013, the Mead Education program was the recipient of a \$300.00 grant from the Aldo Leopold Audubon Society serving Central Wisconsin. The grant money will fund the mounting of an eastern screech owl in a re-created natural forest habitat setting. This is the third grant that has been awarded to help acquire the ten owl species that reside or visit Wisconsin.

Acquiring these owl mounts for our educational programs fulfills National Audubon Society's mission: "To conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity".

To learn more about the Aldo Leopold Audubon Society in Central Wisconsin visit their website at www.aldoleopoldaubon.org





Open House & Volunteer Social

Article & Photo by Pam Resech

Many new faces were seen at the Mead's first Open House & Volunteer Social on Saturday March 16th from 10am-2pm. Despite the early morning snowfall, several people came to learn about the different volunteer opportunities that the Mead has to offer. A huge thank you goes out to Kris Rued-Clark for writing an article about the event in the Stevens Point Buyers' Guide: "What's Up!" column. A lot of visitors commented on having seen the article and came out to learn more.

"Volunteers are the Heart of the Mead" was the theme for the day. Current volunteers (Lorraine Michalski, Marlene Furo and Don Fox) along with Mead staff (Kaylee Zalewski, Bill Seybold and Pam Resech) greeted the new visitors, helped them with their paperwork and sign-up sheets for the upcoming events. Friends' board member Susan Ford-Hoffert was also on hand to learn about the volunteer Greeter program and talk with the new visitors.

Kaylee and Lorraine helping the new volunteers with their paperwork.



"Winged Wonders" - Open House Event

Article & Photos by Pam Resech



Flitter, flap, fly, or buzz on over to the Mead Education and Visitor Center to learn about the importance of native pollinators. Birds, bats, bees, butterflies, beetles, and other small mammals that pollinate plants are responsible for bringing us one out of every three bites of food. They also sustain our ecosystems and produce our natural resources by helping plants reproduce.

Bring your family and friends for a day of fun learning activities, crafts, and nature hikes related to our winged friends. Admission is free, but donations are always appreciated.



This New Family Event will be
held on

Sunday May 5th

We are looking for Volunteers to help with
this Event. If you are interested,

Please contact Pam Resech,

Phone: 715-457-6771 ext. 2

Emailing pamela.resech@wisconsin.gov





News Briefs

Articles by Pam Resech & Photos by Pam & Kaylee



Winter Education Snowshoeing:

Mead was busy this winter with visiting school groups coming to snowshoe. While trekking about, groups learned about animal tracking and what the animals do during the winter to survive. Everyone was excited to get out and explore in all the fresh snow.



New Black Bear Lesson:

With the completion of a new black bear cub by taxidermist Steve Niehaus, we are currently developing some new lesson plans about the black bear. One lesson teaches the children about the unique adaptations that bears have and how some of their traits are similar to ours. Humans and bears are omnivores and have plantigrade locomotion, which means walking with the entire sole of the foot on the ground.

Skull Donation:

Thank you goes out to Chuck Janssen's friend Kristen in Alaska. Kristen donated 3 boxes of mammal skulls to the Mead Education program. These skulls will be used in the development of new hands-on education lessons about North American wildlife. Some of the new skulls included porcupine, cougar, moose, arctic fox, and bobcat.



New Lobby Displays:

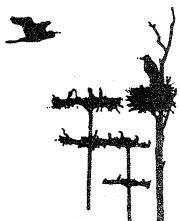
A bobcat mount, donated by Don Furo and an oxen yoke, donated by Earl Krings Jr. are now on permanent display in the lobby. A thank you to Don Prohaska and his associate from "The Olde Iron Shoppe:" in Mosinee for their custom made iron brackets used to get these displays hung.



Brat Fry Fundraiser:

The Mead's Learn to Hunt Waterfowl Program will again be sponsoring a fundraiser on **Saturday & Sunday June 29-30th**. Stop by the "Brat Barn" at Festival Foods in Marshfield to help support this program. Ham-burgers, hotdogs, and Oktoberfest brats are on the menu.





**Friends of the
Mead/McMillan
Association, Inc.**
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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

Annual Earth Week Clean Up Day at Mead

Saturday, April 27th 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 area. Your efforts will be rewarded with a lunch!!



Meet at the Visitor Center to get your assigned area. We will be working on the following tasks:

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

Volunteers should bring their own leather gloves. 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 though, if you plan to bring something!

Volunteers should RSVP by Monday, April 15th at 715-457-6771 ext. 2 or by emailing pamela.resech@wisconsin.gov.

This will help us to coordinate activities.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!