



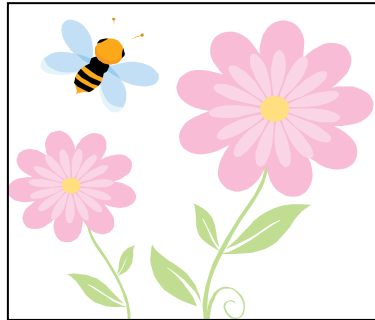
WETLAND'S GAZETTE

Volume 10, Issue 1

March 2014

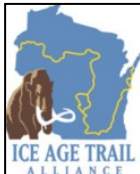
"Winged Wonders" Family Festival

Sunday
May 4, 2014
11am-3pm



Have you ever smelled the flowers outside? Enjoyed the taste of your favorite fruit or vegetable? Who do you think is to thank? Our native pollinators (birds, bats, bees, and butterflies) that's who!

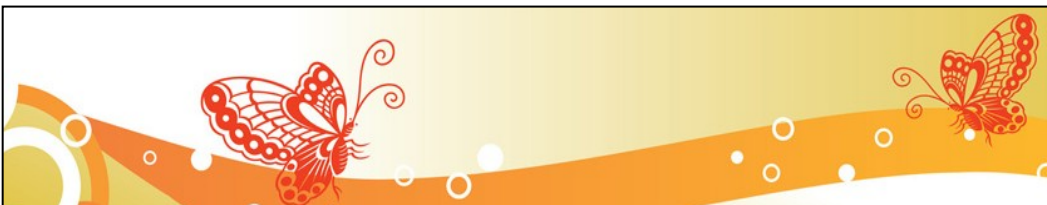
Bring your family and friends out to the Mead Education and Visitor Center for a day of fun learning activities, interactive displays, and organizations interested in our native pollinators.



Additional Activities planned for the day are:

Winged Crafts Scavenger Hunt Children Activities
Photo Opportunities with an Owl

Buy a "Homemade Goodie" from our Bountiful Bake Sale



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:

- Don Fox
- Don Furo
- Marlene Furo
- Sue Hall
- Jerry Harvey
- Mark Lewandoski
- Lorraine Michalski

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
- Malcolm Gold

Newsletter Editor:

- Dave Grabski
dgrabski@charter.net



New President

Article Sue Hall & Photo by Patrice Eysers

The new President of the Board of Directors for the Friends of the Mead & McMillan Wildlife Areas has a strong passion and belief that the outdoors is of vital importance for how we live. Jeremiah Smith grew up on a dairy farm near the Mead Wildlife Area where he used the property throughout his life for hunting, fishing and recreation. He has a deep appreciation and understanding of natural resources with college degrees from MSTC and UWSP in Natural Resources. He currently works as a financial advisor. He is married to Laura and they have two children, Grady and Everly.

Jere (R) volunteered his help at the 2012 Learn to Hunt, pictured with Bill Hirt and a youth waterfowl hunter.



Volunteer Appreciation Dinner-2013

Article & Photos by Kaylee Lietz

On December 13th, the Mead held its 6th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. The dinner is one way to say "Thank You" and to re-pay the countless volunteers that help at the Mead. In 2013, our volunteers put in over 3,000 hours. Even with the cold, many braved the weather for the pulled pork dinner.

The Western Fraternal Group again donated money to the Mead Education Program this year. Four of the Members of the Western Fraternal are volunteers here at the Mead.

Even with all the help that the Mead gets from its volunteers, it can always use more. The Mead is currently looking for individuals interested in helping

in the areas of Greeters and Education Assistants. More information can be found online at www.meadwildlife.org under the Visitor Center tab, Volunteer Opportunities. We encourage anyone who might be interested to call and set up an appointment with Pam or Kaylee to talk about your volunteering interests. (715) 457-6771.

Attention all Current and New Volunteers: The Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is turning into a Picnic!

Mark your Calendars for: **Sunday July 27, 2014 Noon - 4pm**

Volunteers Marcell & Janice Wieloch, Brian Peters, Pam Resech accepting the check from volunteers Gladys & Arne Ruha.





Habitat Happenings & Facility Features

By Property Supervisor, Brian Peters

Wetlands:

The extreme cold and deep snow slowed progress on the North Smoky Hill Flowage dike repair project. Earlier in the winter some cattail mowing was accomplished on this flowage with the goal of opening up some areas within the dense cattail matt. The cut stems will be flooded over to kill the plants. There will likely be flooding this spring with the amount of snow accumulation that we have. We hope it is not too severe.

Forests:

It was a good winter for timber management activity except the cold and snow did affect the loggers' progress at times. Five timber sales were active, four on Mead and one on McMillan.

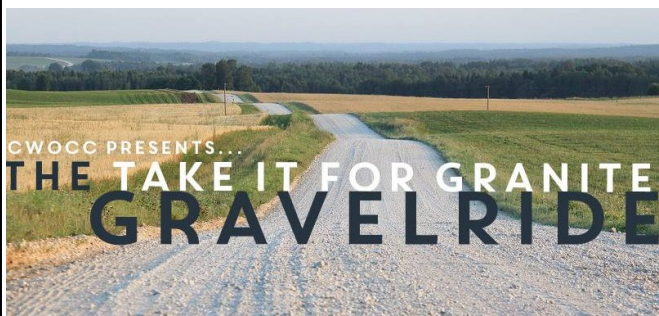
Facilities:

Patrice has been monitoring the Big Eau Pleine aerator in cooperation with Wisconsin Valley Improvement Corporation and DNR Fisheries. The cold temperatures and high LP gas prices ate into the Mead budget for heating the shop/storage buildings. We're glad the visitor center is heated with geothermal and wood, but there were some maintenance issues with several of the heat pumps. There have also been numerous maintenance issues with several pieces of equipment that are essential to field operations.

Miscellaneous Happenings:

The Mead/McMillan Wildlife Technician vacancy has finally been filled by Kyle Christianson. This is extremely good news and we are very pleased to have Kyle on the team! Kyle comes to Mead from a wildlife technician position he held in Green Bay and Mishicot. He was an LTE at Mead in the early 2000's and he loved it so much that he just had to come back! Kyle is a graduate of UWSP. Welcome Kyle!

A second CWD positive deer was harvested near the Mead this past gun season. Testing of deer from the area was intensified after the first detection of CWD in 2012. Several significant deer hunting regulation changes will be implemented statewide in 2014. This is in response to the Deer Trustee Report. One change is that antlerless tags will be issued by County and by public or private lands within the designated county.



**CWOCC will be hosting their first annual Gravel Ride
Saturday, May 17 at 8am**

Ride will begin and end at the Mead Visitor Center.

Central Wisconsin Off-road Cycling Coalition (CWOCC) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to educate through trail advocacy and promote fitness, group activities as well as exploring nature.

If interested in learning more about this event visit their website: <http://www.cwocc.org>



Winter Excursions to the Mead

Article by Kaylee Lietz & Photos by Pam Resech

This winter the education staff hosted some very interesting organizations. The first organization was "WAEGO" which stands for Women Actively Enjoying the Great Outdoors. The group's mission statement is: "We are active, supportive women with open minds, a positive attitude and a sense of adventure." They came out at the end January on a very snowy day to go snowshoeing. This wonderful bunch of women enjoyed hiking out past Dragonfly pond, exploring the Boardwalk trail and looking for animal tracks. All who came out and battled the storm had a wonderful time. We know that this is not the last time that we will see the WAEGOs at the Mead.



Sandi Cihlar and her WAEGO group by the Boardwalk



Scouts experiencing a Night Hike and Snow!

Other organizations to visit the Mead this winter were Boy Scout troops. The Boy Scouts groups bring so much energy to their visits that the time just seems to fly by. The first group, came out to complete their naturalist badge. This group first learned about animal movements and tracking, then took their skills outside for a first time night hike to see what signs of animals there might be. However during their visit we encountered one of the many snow storms to hit Wisconsin. Needless to say that they did not find tracks, but they thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

The second Boy Scout group worked on completing their Fish and Wildlife Management Badge requirements. While they were at the Mead, the Scouts got the opportunity to talk to current and retired DNR employees about their schooling, why they choose their career paths, and what they (scouts) would need to do to follow their career paths. A special thanks to Jake Lassila and Tom Meier for giving their time to come and talk to this group!

Interested in bringing your group/organization to the Mead? Please contact us, at 715-457-6771.



Tom Meier giving some career pointers.



Mead Grounds Association (MGA) Up-date

Article Ken Pierce & Photos by Matt Tepp

The three MGA Dog Clubs have had a busy 2013 summer and fall. The Grant as proposed has allowed the MGA members to:

- ♦ Doubled the size of the Existing Shelter. Finished in 2012.
- ♦ Properly surface the additional parking (overflow on the N. side of the road). Will be evaluated again in the Spring of 2014 and additional work will be performed as needed.
- ♦ Improve the current parking area by adding additional granite. Will be reviewed again in the Spring of 2014 and improved as needed.
- ♦ Cap the ends of the shelter. Completed.

The following items are on the agenda for completion in early 2014.

- ♦ Double the size of the parking at Pool five. (Clearing and stump removal of a determined area by the DNR near existing parking area). Delayed due to logging that was completed in the Fall of 2013. This will be completed in May 2014.
- ♦ Continue to spread remaining gravel and build up (fill holes) existing parking areas, ongoing issue.

Some items of interest for the **Friends of the Mead** are:

- ♦ Hours of time donated by the dog club members on Grant Projects are maxed out and additional hours will be needed (and donated) by Club Members to finish the project.
- ♦ All Grant work has to be completed by June 30th 2014.
- ♦ Utilization of the Dog Training Area. NCWNAVHDA holds 6 formal training and 6 testing days a year with attendance averaging 40 people per day. MWRRC holds formal training events bi-weekly throughout the year with attendance averaging 15 per day, and tests bringing in over 100 people per day. The WRMWRC holds informal events based on club needs.



Sheryle Tepp and her dog-Savvy



President-Ken Pierce and his dogs

The Dog training Grounds are being utilized for training starting in early spring on a daily basis by the MGA Club Members as well as the general public. These grounds are now being fully utilized in the evenings to the point where Club Members have to utilize private training facilities to augment their training needs. Additionally Pool five will be drained this year to try and eradicate weeds that are choking out the ponds and making them unsuitable for dog training purposes.

Current MGA Officers are: President - Kenneth Pierce, Vice President - Justin VanDeHey, Secretary - Sheryle Tepp, Treasurer - Julie Carlstrom



Benefits of Hiking

Courtesy of the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks

Newsletter Photos by Pam Resech

5 Reasons why stepping off the beaten path at the Mead Wildlife Area can put you on the right path!

It's Healthy. Is it ever! While there is a growing amount of hiking-specific research, studies of the benefits of walking are equally applicable to hiking. According to the American Hiking Society, hiking delivers a remarkable range of health benefits with comparatively few risks. By using hiking as a way to stay physically active, you can potentially lose weight, reduce heart disease, decrease hypertension, and slow the aging process. It also offers mental health benefits by reducing stress and anxiety.

It's Simple. As you hike more frequently, you'll begin to develop additional stamina, skills, and comfort on the trail. But let's face it, what activity is more fundamentally human than walking upright on two feet? The beauty of hiking is that unlike, say, land luge, it's an extension of something we all do naturally and every day. You will improve over time but the initial learning curve is almost non-existent. It's easy to stick with hiking because the frustration level for beginners is low and you can control the intensity of your workout and find the pace that works for you.

It's Cheap. Compared to just about any other sport, your upfront spending for hiking essentials is minimal, Good boots, a few pieces of the proper clothing, a comfortable pack, and you're pretty much ready to go. Overall, it's not a sport for gearheads—nor do you have to worry about paying \$275 for a tee time. As you get more into hiking, maybe you will decide to try a hiking vacation halfway around the world. But most of us have easy access to parks and natural areas with trails, so you don't have to spend a lot of money (or time) to head out on a hike.

It's Real. We all spend too much time on computers and indoors under fluorescent lights. Or texting and watching TV (often texting while watching TV). Hiking encourages you to step away from your desk and step back out into nature. It's a chance to experience the world directly and without a filter, and to rediscover the rhythms of the day and the seasons. Hiking is an unscripted experience where spontaneity is the rule. Even a trail hiked many times before will deliver surprises that keep boredom at bay. It's not uncommon to see a whole variety of wildlife on the trail as well as birds, wildflowers and the sound of a stream.



Hiking with co-workers on the Boardwalk Trail



Rebooting in Nature along the Turkey Foot Trail



Benefits of Hiking (continued)

It's Forever. As much as hiking is a great way to introduce kids to the world of the outdoors, it's also a sport that they'll be able to enjoy their whole lives. So can you. A lot of activities and sports have limited life spans for participants, either because of injuries or logistical challenges (when was the last time you got 18 people together at the last minute for a softball game?) But because hiking is low impact and you can anticipate and control the intensity and duration of your workout, it's something that you can keep doing long after your rugby days are finished. As you get older, you may not get up a mountain as quickly. Or cover 20 miles in a day. But in many ways, you'll be a better hiker. Your understanding of the environment will improve and you'll pick up more details and nuance along the trail.



Nature Hike with children on the Audubon Trail

Although hiking is referred to as a recreational activity, there are many individuals who use hiking as a way to relax or escape from their everyday life. That is what is amazing about hiking; this recreational activity can offer you and provide you with so much, including a fun and exciting time.

If you would like to go hiking, you should give it a try. As a reminder, the Mead Wildlife Area has over 35 miles of trails that can be hiked. Or if you travel around the state; Wisconsin has 175 state wildlife areas, 64 state parks, forests and recreation areas and 39 state trails; therefore, you shouldn't have any problem finding a hiking trail to get started.

"Incredible Journey"-Walking the Ice Age Trail



Photo courtesy: www.iceagetrail.org

Do you enjoy being in nature? Wondering how to exercise and enjoy the peacefulness that comes from being outdoors? That is exactly what Ruth Sommers, a member of the state Ice Age Trail and the Portage County Ice Age Trail Chapter wanted from the outdoors. She accomplished her desires when she discovered the Ice Age trail.

The Ice Age Trail is a thousand-mile footpath winding through Wisconsin. The trail crosses 33 Wisconsin counties. 3.4 million Wisconsinites live within one hour drive of the trail and do not even realize it is right there.

Ruth will be at our Winged Wonders event on May 4th Event to share her "Incredible Journey" of hiking the entire Ice Age Trail, and to encourage others to check out the trail. Look for Ruth and check out her informational display and learn more about Wisconsin's Ice Age Trail, its history and glacial features.



Winter Education

Article by Kaylee Lietz & Photos by Arne Ruha

This winter was brutal with record amounts of snow fall and freezing temperatures. Many thought that the Mead had closed down. Yet, Mead still had school groups visiting, excited to come and explore our wintry world by way of snowshoes.

One of the bigger school groups we had was Stratford Elementary 2nd graders. They came out on a very cold winter day. However, the cold could not stop these energetic 2nd graders from making the most out of their day. They got to go outside and practice their tracking ability while on snowshoes.

Students also discovered the benefits and adaptations of animals in the winter time through a fun hide and seek game of Colorful Confusion. After their outside fun, they were able to come inside and warm up by practicing their animal movements and tracking identification.



The other school group that came to visit was the Rudolph 4th graders. Even though their day was warmer, they still were outside seeing what the Mead had to offer. They got to practice their animal movement skills as well as track identification and track analysis. This group was given a scene with tracks on it and then assigned a track and told to create a story based off of what the tracks showed the animal doing. Then they had to present their story in front of the class.



After all this inside work, they were ready to head outside on snowshoes and try tracking for real! They did not find many signs of wildlife, because of the cold the animals were and not moving around much. Even so the students still enjoyed exploring in the deep snow.



Become a Member of the “Friends”

Article by Sue Hall

With 40,000 acres dedicated to wildlife, the Mead and McMillan Wildlife Areas are resources that touch the lives of many, hunters, trappers, fishermen, hikers, birdwatchers, and thousands of youth. By becoming a member, you will become part a diverse group of people—with a common goal, ensuring the preservation and improvement of the two Wildlife Areas and help support our heritage for generations to come.

Your membership gives support to the properties in a variety of ways, education at the Center for no charge: Learn to Hunt, Trappers Education, Family Events, Organization and School group fieldtrips. Management support, both monetary and volunteer, for maintenance work: grounds, bike & walking trails, dike brush clearing, maps, and some equipment needs.



When you join the Friends you become a part of the wonderful events that continue to make the Mead/McMillan Wildlife Areas two of Wisconsin's most innovative and exciting natural resource areas.

If you would like to purchase a membership for your family or friends you can do so by filling out the following form.

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	
Address	
City	
State	
Zip	
Phone	
Email	

Thank you for your support with our environmental endeavors!

Aldo Leopold Audubon Society Grant Award

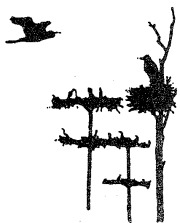
Article & Photo by Pam Resech



On February 12, 2014, 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 a long-eared owl in a re-created natural conifer habitat setting. Long-eared owls are the most common, most widespread owl in the northern hemisphere, and are the most difficult to find. They are secretive, very well camouflaged and like to perch in the thickest part of a tree. This is the fourth 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.aldoleopoldaubudon.org



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

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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 26th 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 14th 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!