



WETLAND'S GAZETTE

Volume 11, Issue 1

March 2015

"Winged Wonders" Family Event

**Sunday
May 3, 2015
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!

At **1pm** join **Jennifer Redell**, conservation biologist with the WI DNR's Bat Program, for an hour devoted to nightlife!



Bats are amazing animals that make up 20% of the world's mammal diversity and Wisconsin is home to seven of these species. Learn about your backyard bats and how the Wisconsin Bat Program studies them. Discover the threats they face and what you can do to help. Listen to bat calls and meet a live bat face to face!

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:
Crafts Scavenger Hunt Children Activities
Buy a "Homemade Goodie" from our Bake Sale
Bid for a "Bountiful Basket" at our Silent Auction"



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

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:

- *Marlene Furo*
- *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 Lorraine Michalski & Photos by Katie Guthman & Pam Resech

Justin Guthman is a new resident in central Wisconsin and lives near the Big Eau Pleine River within walking distance of the Mead Wildlife Area. Appreciation for the outdoors and natural resources were instilled into Justin since he was a toddler. His grew up in beautiful Lake Holcombe learning about horticulture and conservation.



He is familiar with designing hydroponic fish farm systems and the importance of removing invasive species such as purple loosestrife and Eurasian milfoil. Outdoor interests include hiking, running, biking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, bird watching, hunting and fishing. He sees the need to instill these values into our youth since they are our future.

His children have participated in the Little Naturalist Story time and the Spooktacular event.

Justin has experience with strategic planning, supervising, fiscal budgeting, and compliance as Hospital Director of Pharmacy. We look forward to utilizing his expertise on the board of directors as a member of the Friends Membership Committee.



Eileen Riehle was born and raised in Northern Wisconsin and has taught business classes in cities from Green Bay to Grafton while her heart remained in the Northwoods. "You can't live up there without truly learning to love nature and all it has to offer". She learned at an early age how to recognize edible plants, berries, fungi, how to fish, love birds, bugs, wildlife and photography. She worked in the paralegal field for over 30 years, worked in the banking industry, taught business classes, and is a published writer of articles in gardening magazines.



Eileen currently resides along the Big Eau Pleine River near Stratford and is an Assistant Librarian responsible for children's programming and Story time at the Stratford Public Library.

Her volunteering efforts include Mead Education and Visitor Center Greeter, Events and Education Assistant, Herb Society of America, Wisconsin Historical Society, and Monk Gardens, and former Scout leader. Eileen is a Marathon County Master Gardener and a member of Wisconsin First Detector Network (WIFDN) which detects invasive species.

Eileen's efforts are directed to help preserve our natural habitat so it will be here for generations to enjoy. We look forward to Eileen sharing her skills as a director and a member of the Friends Membership Committee.



A Huge Thank You to Retiring Board Members: Sue Hall, Don Fox, Don Furo & Mark Lewandoski

Sue Hall (written by Beth Clouse), a retired teacher from the Stevens Point School District, has been an advocate for The Friends of the Mead/McMillan and the Mead and McMillan Wildlife Areas for many years. She served on the Board for the Friends from 2002 to 2015. During that time Sue played many roles. Some of those roles were: organizing, publishing, and mailing the Wetland Gazette, helping promote the education program at the Mead-including fundraising for the educator, teaching lessons and establishing the Souvenir Showcase, and promoting membership for the Friends and keeping track of those memberships. If you attended a function at the Mead you probably met Sue for the first time in one of these roles.

However, the role I most remember Sue having was that of Treasurer. Sue was already the treasurer when I first joined the Friends. The fundraising for the building had just gotten underway. On that first night, I was impressed with her report. Using a three ring binder, she knew and could explain exactly what money we had and in what account. As the fund raising, building, and educator programs progressed it was unbelievable what she was handling as a volunteer! Her report later came from a couple of thick binders with many accounts and at several banks, yet she was able to summarize and explain each account in detail, if needed. Sue not only managed these accounts, but was able to research and find ways that we could earn interest at the highest rate we could for each of these programs.

On top of all that, Sue teaches Wiggly Wonders at the Mead, and coordinates the Family Fall Festival with the Aldo Leopold Audubon Society and the Friends group on Grandparents Day in September. She was the Communications Chair, having coordinated the Wetlands Gazette and the Souvenir Showcase. She will continue to work on projects and attend Friends functions. According to Sue, she's not going anywhere! Her time was limitless and still is priceless when it comes to doing work for the Friends group.

Sue coordinates the "Family Fall Festival" held on Grandparents Day in September



Wetland's Gazette

High Bidder at the "Sportsman's Auction"



Sue, you were exceptional in all of these roles! We all are grateful for the hard work and time that you put into them. Your contributions to The Friends and the Mead & McMillan Wildlife Areas will forever be remembered.

Thank you, Sue Hall!



Beth and Sue selling Souvenirs at "Spooktacular"



Retiring Board Members-continued

Article Submitted by Board Members

Don Fox: We would like to thank Don, for his excellent service and numerous hours that he has devoted to serving on the Friends Board.

Don served on the Friends Board from January 2009 to January 2015. During that time he has held several positions. He served as Secretary from mid- 2009 thru 2010. In 2011 he was elected Vice-President and then in 2012 and 2013 he served as President. In 2014 to January 17, 2015, he was the Special Projects Committee Chair.



Assisting the Eagle Scout-Travis with his Handicapped Hunter Blind project

Whenever anything needed to be constructed, Don was there. In the past seven years he has worked on building thirty plus Aldo Leopold style benches, Ducks-on-a-stick display boxes, shelves for the AV storage room to bigger projects of main entrance gates and kiosks for Mead and McMillan, Tom Meier Habitat Diversity Observation Platform, Rookery construction, he has organized crews and completed the five year Ephemeral Trail and Boardwalk project and the Dragonfly Pond Wildlife Viewing Blind.

When he was not giving his time to construction projects, he provided his hands to help co-chair the 2011 Sportsman Auction. He dedicated his time and assisted us with numerous projects so that he was



Getting items ready for the Sportsman's Auction

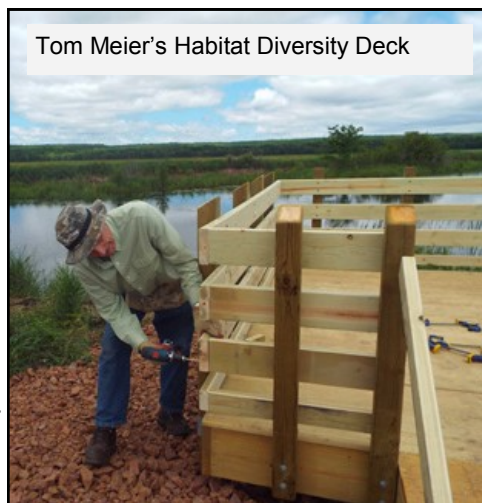
presented with the Outstanding Volunteer of the Mead award.

Even though Don has decided to resign from the Board that does not mean that he will be totally leaving us. We are happy to know that he plans on continuing to assist the DNR Staff and Friends, by being part of the Wednesday Wildlife Assistant work crew, along with being involved in small and large construction projects in the future.

Helping with Duck Banding Day



Tom Meier's Habitat Diversity Deck





Retiring Board Members-continued

Articles Submitted by Board Members

Don Furo: It is said: “you give but little when you give of your possessions, but it is when you give of yourself that we truly give.” This aptly describes 8-year Friends Board member, Don Furo.

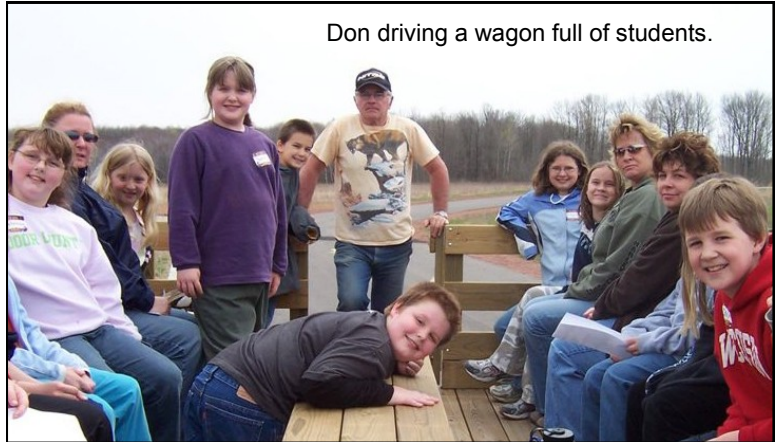
Don has grown up just down the road from the Mead Wildlife Area, making his support to the Friends and Staff of the Mead one of great dedication and support. Some of the many duties Don assisted Staff with were: overseeing the Center when the staff are not available, coming in to open it for the weekend events and activities, assisting the Wildlife Technicians as a Wildlife Assistant volunteer, and driving the wagon for tours that introduces people to the Mead Property.

Don as a Wildlife Assistant volunteer was a part of the crew that helped to build and install the Ephemeral Boardwalk Trail and Observation Platforms. He and Tom Meier came up with the Ephemeral Boardwalk Trail idea to connect the Dragonfly Pond Dike to the Bike Trail. With the creation of this unique and involved trail, it allows users a new walking trail system that enhances a visitors experience whether with a group or on their own.

As a Friends Board member, he is best known for the Pancake Breakfast. Don's dedication and commitment to the Pancake Breakfast helped to make it a very popular event that brought neighbors and friends together. He also co-chaired two Sportsman's Auctions. He was always willing to help whether it was flipping burgers for the Prairie Chicken Festival, searching for the best soda sales for events, or providing another set of hands to the crew. Don Furo defines a dedicated volunteer and devoted Board member who worked to assist both staff and visitors to make the George W. Mead what it is today.



Don using his own tractor to unload the boardwalk sections from the semi.



Don driving a wagon full of students.

Mark Lewandowski: During his four years on the Friends of the Mead/McMillan Board of Directors, Mark has made an impact with his expertise with financial planning. He has been effective at selecting stocks for the Friends to invest funds and enable the board to generate a higher percentage of interest. He has been chair of the Fundraising Committee and has collaborated with our treasurer and president investing the Friends funds.

Mark has been active at the Pointing Dog group at the Mead Wildlife Area. The Friends group appreciate your services and wish you well as you journey to live in Florida.



Mark enjoying one of his favorite hobbies.



Habitat Happenings & Facility Features

By Property Supervisor-Brian Peters

Wetlands: Despite a few cold days where equipment use was kept to a minimum, the field crew has accomplished a significant amount of needed dike maintenance work where frozen ground is a necessity. Along with this accomplishment comes the cost associated with operating heavy equipment and trucks. We have had to seek additional funding from several sources to be able to continue the needed field work and still have adequate operating funds for other needs. The good news is we have been able to secure some funding that will help offset the projected shortfall in the operations budget. Another positive development is the successful outcome to the NAWCA grant request mentioned in the last newsletter. Mead has been awarded a small NAWCA grant for the major repair of teal dike. Thanks again to all the partners who provided donations that helped make this grant a reality!

Forests: Six of eight new timber sales were sold on bids to logging contractors. Total acreage sold was 313 acres of aspen and mixed hardwood. Two previously established timber sales have been active with one being completed.

Facilities: Problems with the solar hot water system, office wing in-floor heat pump, new shop tank-less water heater and one old shop heater are either repaired or being worked on by contractors. Some field equipment repairs have been required to keep operations moving forward. Costs for equipment maintenance can be significant, but one positive this winter is the lower cost of LP gas for heating in the new and old shop buildings as compared with last winter's high prices.

Miscellaneous Happenings: Mead's annual post-waterfowl season hunter meeting was very well attended. Bill Hirt, Patrice Eysers and Kyle Christianson presented data from the 2014 Mead and McMillan waterfowl seasons, waterfowl counts on the properties and hunter survey results. No changes will be proposed for the 2015 regulations on Mead or McMillan. Surveys will be continued for additional data collection in 2015. Mead staff assisted with the winter wolf/carnivore track surveys in the zone that includes Mead and McMillan. One or more snowy owls have been observed near Mead this winter. Check out the February issue of Natural Resources magazine for an excellent article by Wildlife Technician Bill Hirt.



Assistance Appreciated: Thank you to the Friends for your financial assistance on several requests including the NAWCA grant, limited term employee salary fund supplement and the purchase of several needed items for operations and education.

McMillan Marsh Matters

Article by Kyle Christianson

We are about to close the books on 2014 hunting & trapping seasons and welcome in 2015 spring hunting & fishing seasons. The Fall/Winter months have seen a lot of activity at McMillan Marsh; we received significant feedback from hunters on waterfowl management, completed multiple infrastructure projects along the dike system, coordinated with local municipalities on seasonal protective road closures, planned future habitat projects, and conducted property boundary assessments. Going forward in 2015 we have multiple habitat projects, boundary work, and infrastructure work to complete.

I will be the lead contact person for the Annual Earth Day Spring Clean-up this year (9am on Sat. 4/25) at the McMillan Marsh. For further details please contact me at 715-457-6771 ext. 3 or kyle.christianson@wisconsin.gov.

See you on the Marsh!





Open House & Volunteer Social Event Saturday April 11

To help kick off **National Volunteer Week** (April 12-18) the Mead Staff and Volunteers are hosting an Open House on Saturday April 11, from 10-2pm.

Bring a Friend or bring your Family, and come join us for a day of fun with kids' activities, tours, and more! Your chance to get involved with upcoming volunteer opportunities, and get your questions answered.

We are current looking for volunteers to help with our Greeter and Education Programs. If interested in getting involved with either of these programs, please bring your calendar. Training dates will be discussed too.

Current Volunteer Greeters, we will have sign-up sheets available.

If you are interested and cannot make the Open House, please call or email one of us to set up an appointment to learn more:



Contact: Pam Resech

Phone: 715-457-6771 ext.2

Email: pamela.resech@wisconsin.gov

Contact: Lorraine Michalski

Phone: 715-384-5047

Email: sar2qe@gmail.com

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	
Address	
City	
State	
Zip	
Phone	
Email	

Thank you for your support with our environmental endeavors!



Wildlife Conservation Education-Winter

Article by Kaylee Lietz & Photos by Pam Resech & Marti Sowka

This winter the Mead Wildlife Area was honored to host a group of visiting Chinese Students who had expressed an interest in the Natural Resources and the possibility of future study in the US. These Chinese students were a part of the Wisconsin Education and Winter Exploration Program through the UWSP school system.

The Wisconsin Education & Winter Exploration Program is in its second year and is a collaborative effort between UWSP's School of Natural Resources, Central Wisconsin Environmental Station, and International Students Office, as well as the Stevens Point Area School District & the Stevens Point Area Catholic Schools. This year there are 30 middle & high school aged participants from China, up from 16 students last year.

During their visit to the Mead, Marti Sowka assisted Pam with the Mammals in Wisconsin activity in which the students were able to learn about tracking and wildlife management. After the Mead, the students and Mead staff went down the road to Joel Kuehnhold's farm to learn about organic farming and some renewable energy resources he is using on his farm. The students also got to interact with the farm's residents first hand.

The Mead was just one of the stops for this group, but the Mead was excited to get to meet and interact with this group.



Pam teaching about one of Wisconsin's abundant wildlife.



Students enjoyed seeing the farm animals



Joel talks in his greenhouse about organic farming

Like us on Facebook: Friends of Mead & McMillan Wildlife Areas



Aldo Leopold Audubon Society Grant Award

Article & Photo by Pam Resech



On March 13, 2015, 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 northern saw-whet owl in a re-created natural conifer habitat setting. Northern Saw-whet owls are one of the most widespread owls in the northern hemisphere and will tolerate close approach without flushing. Strictly nocturnal, it hunts rodents from a perch and roosts by day in thick vegetation. This is the fifth 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".

Learn more about the Aldo Leopold Audubon Society by visiting the website: www.aldoleopoldaudubon.org

News Briefs



Educator of the Year Award

On Saturday, January 31, the National Wild Turkey Federation presented Pam Resech with the Conservation Educator of the Year Award. The Award Banquet was held at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. Pam was nominated for the award by FOMM Board of Director member Jerry Harvey.



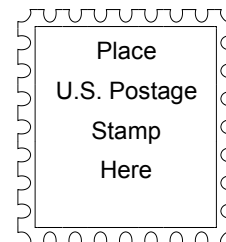
Winter Snowshoeing

On Saturday February 7, the first Family Snowshoeing Day event was held. Kaylee Lietz, LTE Naturalist led an adventurous group of visitors on a hike around the property and looked for signs of animals in winter. The group had a very enjoyable outing on snowshoes.

Marlene Furo and Lorraine Michalski helped with the refreshments that were available in the Visitor Center.



**Friends of the
Mead/McMillan
Association, Inc.**
S2148 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

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

Saturday, April 25th 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. 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

McMillan Crew-Kyle Christianson: 715-457-6771 ext. 3 or email kyle.christianson@wisconsin.gov