



WETLAND'S GAZETTE

Volume 7, Issue 1

March 2011

Bring Your Family & Friends
to the

All-You-Can-Eat!!

Pancake Breakfast

Saturday May 21, 2011
8:00am-Noon



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

Adults:\$7.00

6-12:\$3.00

Under 6:Free

While You are at the Mead Take Time to:

- ◆ Hike or Bike the Trails
- ◆ See the Albino Deer Display
- ◆ Walk the Audubon Prairie Nature Trail
- ◆ View the Historical Exhibit
- ◆ Tour the Mead Visitor Center
- ◆ Catch a Wagon Tour into the "Interior" of the property



Berkhahn Bike Trail Opens: Saturday May 15, 2011.

*****Remember to bring your bikes, binoculars, and cameras to help enjoy your day.**



If you would like to help with the Pancake Breakfast,
Contact Don Furo at (715) 457-6770 or dfuro@tds.net



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

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

All Proceeds Benefit the Mead's Educational Programs

Friends of the Mead/McMillan

Officers

- *President—Doug Aziz
Mosinee 693-3491*
- *Vice-President—Don Fox
Marshfield 676-3115*
- *Secretary—Jim Peterson
Auburndale 652-3143*
- *Treasurer—John Shippy
Junction City 457-2575*

Directors:

- Doug Aziz
- John Crawley
- Don Ebbers
- Don Fox
- Don Furo
- Marlene Furo
- Malcolm Gold
- Michael Gross
- Sue Hall
- Jerry Harvey
- Ellie Kafka
- Mark Lewandowski
- Jim Peterson
- John Shippy
- Jeremiah Smith

DNR Staff on board:

- Tom Meier, Project Manager
- Brian Peters
- Pam Resech, Educator

Webmaster:

- Malcolm Gold

Newsletter Editor this Issue:

- Pam Resech
pamela.resech@wisconsin.gov



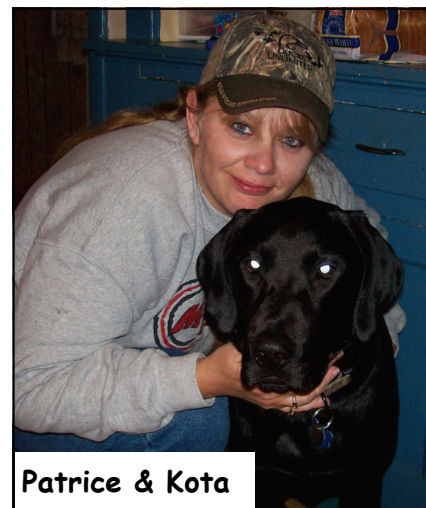
Manager's Report

Article by Tom Meier

This winter has been one of the toughest in many years. Species such as deer and turkeys have felt its punch and it is certain that some of the smaller and weaker animals have not made it. This is Wisconsin though and demonstrates the need to manage wildlife populations in concert with the expected lean and harsh months of winter. By doing so, we can reduce the loss and ensure healthier animals coming into the spring season.

Since the last news letter, we have accomplished dike work, wood duck house maintenance, set up new timber sales, written grants for additional funding, and rebuilt the Mead Great Blue Heron Rookery. Not bad considering that we also did a lot of snow plowing.

Many of you know Patrice Eysers who, since 2002, has volunteered and worked part time positions here at the wildlife area. This January we were fortunate to interview for a vacancy that we have had for over a year. Patrice was the top candidate! Please welcome her into the Mead Family as our newest Advanced Wildlife Technician.



Patrice & Kota

I know that the word is out, but for those of you who do not know, I will be retiring in June. I love the Mead and the many friends that I have made while managing this wonderful place. It is special to me and I know special to many of you. There are very few places like it, and when one considers its size and diversity, it is truly a gem. All of you have been great neighbors to work and socialize with and I will miss that part most of all! You have been great supporters and I have faith that you will continue to support and be involved in the place we call the Mead.

I will be leaving with the security of knowing that you are in great hands with the Mead Staff I leave behind. They are as dedicated to the Mead as I am and will carry on the tradition of dedication and commitment that we have developed as a team. My best to them and all of you!!

Take Care and thanks for your friendship over the years! ~Tom

Retiring Member of the Board of Directors

Article by Sue Hall

Sportsman's Auction 2007



Bob Trembl has served on the board of directors for the past seven years. Through the years, he has helped with the Mead Family picnics, along with the Friends Pancake breakfasts and Sportsman's Auction. Bob served on several committees and we appreciate his many years of service on the Board of Directors.



Our Website had a face lift! Check it out:

<http://www.meadwildlife.org>





New Members for the Board of Directors

Article by Sue Hall

We are pleased to have three new persons on our Board of Directors. We were very pleased that the following people accepted our invitation to join our Board to help enhance wildlife management and education for future generations.



Jeremiah Smith

Jeremiah lives in Auburndale with his wife Laura and their new baby boy Grady along with his 2 yellow labs; Paige and her daughter Ruby. He works for Northwestern Mutual as a financial representative.

Growing up on a dairy farm taught him to value hard work and develop a love for the outdoors. That lead him to completing two degrees in Urban Forestry from Mid-State Technical College and the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. He has a passion for the role that natural resources and the outdoors has on our lives and a desire to have an impact on sustaining them. Laura and he enjoy spending time with family and friends, walking the dogs, hunting, fishing, boating, and camping.

Being a Greeter can be a family affair!

Marlene is a retired teacher who taught Hands-on Science and Environmental Education in the Wisconsin Rapids school district. Her family has lived around the Mead for many years and has hunted, fished, trapped, snowshoed and cross country skied in it.

She started volunteering at the Mead primarily in the Education Programs, but also helps with the cleaning, gardening, cooking for events and last year with the Greeter program.



L to R: Marlene Furo, granddaughter-Rachel, daughter-Rhonda holding great-granddaughter-Savannah

Don Ebbers



I grew up in a little Dutch community called Gibbsville in southeastern Sheboygan County, near the "Pond". After leaving construction, I went back to school 23 years ago for a degree in water and wastewater treatment, which brought me to Plover, where I was employed as an operator at the village's wastewater treatment plant for 18 years. I retired last April.

While reading the Gazette last summer, I noticed that Patrice was looking for volunteers to build the Boardwalk. After that first work day, I could not help but notice how dedicated the volunteers and the DNR Staff are to the Mead and its mission.

Along with being a member of the Friends since June 2004, I have been a longtime Board member of the Frank Hornberg Chapter of Trout Unlimited, a member of the Wild Ones, Aldo Leopold Audubon Society and a new member of the Bluebird Restoration Association and a monitor of 37 boxes.



Mead Volunteers, Staff and WPS partner in Rookery Project

Story and Photos by: Patrice Eyers

In a collaborative effort between Mead Wildlife Area and Wisconsin Public Service (WPS), 12 new Great Blue Heron/Cormorant nesting platforms were constructed. The new rookery, located in Little Birch Flowage, was constructed in part to replace the aging rookery in the Berkahn Flowage. WPS supplied the equipment necessary to construct the nesting platforms atop the donated electrical poles along with eleven volunteers to run that equipment. Along with the completion of the 12 nesting platforms, volunteers also laid the foundation for a second rookery site by placing an addition 12 poles on an adjacent island. A big THANKS to those WPS volunteers!



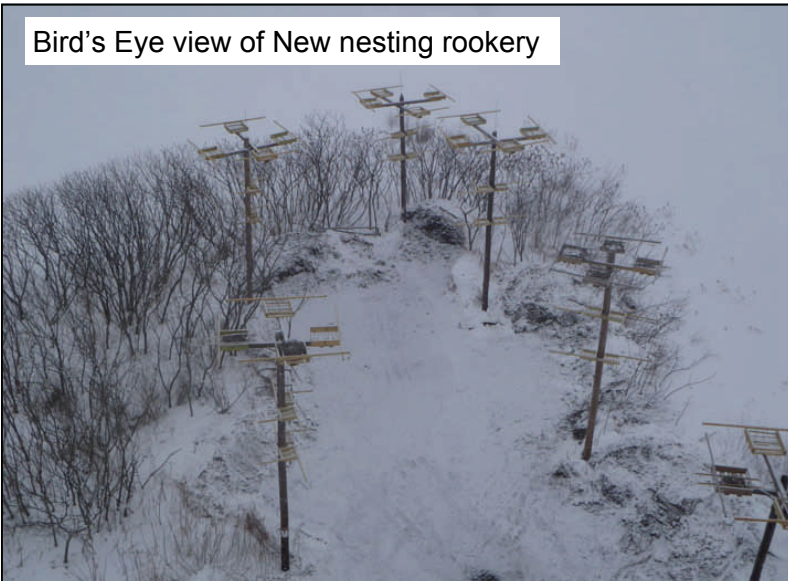
Rookery Crew

Keith Markstrum – Customer Service Coordinator Electric Line Dept.
Fritz Martin - Customer Service Coordinator Gas Dept.
Bob Weight - Customer Service Coordinator Design Dept.
Randy Murkowski – Gas Mechanic
Tom Erdman – Garage Mechanic
Kevin Ziert –Garage Mechanic
Rick Martin – Lineman
Chris Tilkins – Lineman
Zachery Tilkens – Green Bay Technical College (Course of Study: Lineman)
Jonathon Schultz - Green Bay Technical College (Course of Study: Lineman)
Keith Kind - Lineman



WPS crew placing old heron nest in Platform

Bird's Eye view of New nesting rookery



Finally, I'd be willing to bet nest boxes have been plaguing the dreams of Mead's Volunteer Wildlife Assistants for the past few weeks. Volunteers Don Fox, Doug Aziz, John Shippy, Tim Kaiser, Steve Meyer, Don Furo, and Travis Manteuffel have constructed at least 80 nesting boxes over the past few weeks. These guys were also on site during the construction process assisting WPS volunteers. What a Great partnership!



Boardwalk Update—Winter

Story and Photos by: Patrice Eyers



Phase 1 of the Ephemeral Trail and Boardwalk is complete. During the last week of January, Mead staff and volunteers completed the trail connecting the boardwalk sections. The conditions were right and the weeklong project ran smoothly. A special THANKS to those of you that braved the cold to help out; John Shippy, Bill Seybold, Jerry Harvey, Don Fox, and Steve Meier (You too Brian). Another thanks to Dave Ladick and his crew for digging in a frozen pit, and Dean Altman and his crew for hauling our material.



Laying down the fabric



Luke Fara, Don Fox & Steve Meyer

Many of you may be wondering how the budget issues may affect the other phases of this project. As you know, this project is partially funded by Stewardship Funds. We have received good news. The Friend's Grant will be one of just a handful that will receive funding with Stewardship dollars this year. Phase 2 of this project is slated to begin in the next few months. Let me know if you are interested in volunteering!

Annual Meeting Highlights

By Pam Resech



Following the DVD, Tom did a presentation about the importance of wildlife in our lives, featuring the ever popular great-horned owl; Mobly.

Then 12 of the more adventurous attendees buckled on their snowshoes or skis and went to have a first hand look at the completed Phase 1 of the Boardwalk project.

Despite the cold and blustery day, 31 members of the Friends group attended the annual meeting. After the meeting, a DVD that captured the feelings of the awesome first time experience of the participants in Mead's first Learn to Hunt Waterfowl program was played.

A couple of the adventurous souls: (L to R) Bill Seybold, Vlasta Blaha, Ellie Kafka, Raquel Pfaff, and Blair Lorbecki.





Spring Cleaning??

Article by Jerry Harvey & Photo by Pam Resech

With spring cleaning quickly approaching, keep in mind that the Friends will be holding their 2nd Sportsman's Auction. The date is set for Sunday-August 14, 2011. The Friends will be seeking donations of new and used outdoor items for this event.

All proceeds benefit the Mead Wildlife Area's Educational Programs, reaffirming the Friends commitment to environmental education. Collection of donations will begin July 1st.

Watch for updates on our website www.meadwildlife.org. More information will be available in the June issue of the Wetland Gazette.



Nature's Niches

Article by Kaylee Zalewski & Photos by Gerard Fuehrer

Who's hiding out on the Mead property?



Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*) is one of the smaller types of bears in the United States. They are not always black either. Depending on where one is, black bears can have many variations of color. If in the Eastern part of the United States, black coloration is more common, but out West the colorations can be black to cinnamon to even a yellowish color.

Now many people believe that bears only sleep in dens. Well this is true for some bears, but the majority of bears will sleep in some pretty unique places. During the summer, black bears can sleep in shrubs, leafy branches, stumps, brush piles, or even cavities in trees. Any place that can block the wind and hide the bear is a suitable place for them to spend the day or sleep through the winter.

A common misunderstanding about bears is that bears hibernate; well this is not entirely true. Bears are not true hibernators like snakes, turtles, and frogs. Bears tend to enter a lethargic or sleepy state during the winter months. They can wake up and move locations if they feel threatened.

Black bears are omnivorous which means they eat both plants and meats. Some of their diet includes fruits, nuts, fish, carrion (dead animals), invertebrates. However, when a bear first awakes in the spring, any food is appetizing whether fruits, roots, bird feeders or garbage if the food is available bears will go after it. Because of their hunger in the spring, you may have to take down your bird feeders for a couple of weeks.

The Northern bogs are a great place for bears to find shelter and supply lots of foraging opportunities. So next time you are out here at Mead keep your eyes open for the different signs to the presence of bears. If you would like to learn more about the black bear found on the Mead, check out the video "Secrets of a Winter Swamp" by Gerard Fuehrer.





Winter Education

Photos from Faith Christian Academy's Visit



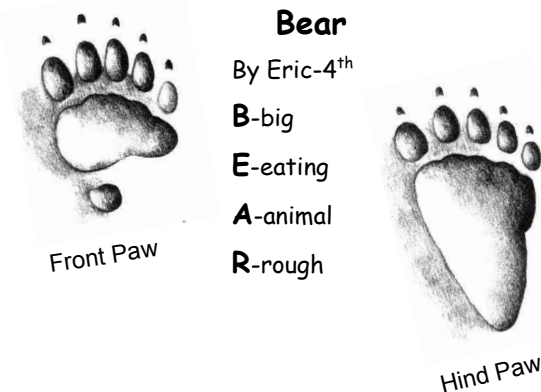
Enjoying a Saturday night at "Mrs. Paul Bunyan's Lumberjack logging camp; dancing and playing the fiddle.



Snowshoeing through the prairie to Dragonfly Pond, with Merlyn Reigel as their guide, looking for signs of animals.

"Junior Naturalist"

This section is dedicated to the many students & children "junior naturalists" who visit the Mead Wildlife Area.



Bear

By Eric-4th

B-big

E-eating

A-animal

R-rough



Birds

By Casey-4th

B-bluebird

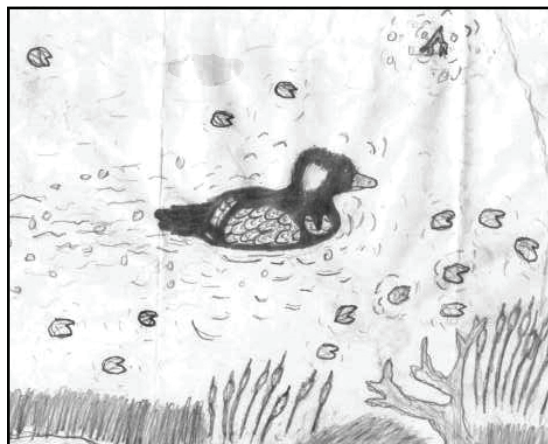
I-Indigo bunting

R-ruffed grouse

D-downy woodpecker

S-snowy owl

The 3 sketches; duck, great horned owl and barn owl were done by Jack Raymond a student at Faith Christian Academy



Mead

by Alex-4th

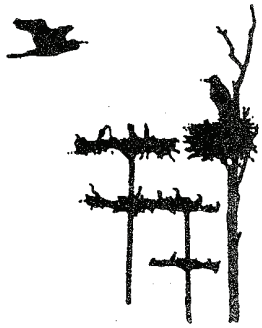
The Mead is a place that you learn things.

Mead

by Libby-3rd

I love the Mead. It is fun.
The End.





**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 Clean Up Day at Mead

Celebrate Earth Week

Saturday, April 30th 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



Come celebrate Earth Week with us 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
- ◆ Repairing bricks and pavers around the center and amphitheater

Volunteers should bring their own leather gloves. We will provide rubber gloves & 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 18th at 715-457-6771 or by emailing
pamela.resech@wisconsin.gov. This will help us to coordinate activities.*

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!