



# WETLAND'S GAZETTE

Volume 14, Issue 1

April 2018

## From the Field

Article by Property Supervisor-Brian Peters

As I write this article we're experiencing an April snowstorm, with significant accumulation and wind. All of our impoundments are still frozen and the ice is thick. I've been told we can always count on three snows on the robin's head. This is the third, so maybe spring will come to stay after this snow is gone?? The birds that have shown up already would sure appreciate it!

The lack of deep snow this winter and good frost in the ground helped us to accomplish a good amount of dike maintenance work. It also aided several timber sale harvests to be completed. The lack of snow in early December allowed us to conduct a prescribed burn to help control brush and tree encroachment into grass nesting habitat. We are gearing up for some additional prescribed burning this spring. So far, the spring water levels in the flowages have been close to where we would like them to be. But it all depends on the amount of precipitation we get, how quickly it comes, and how high the river rises.

Every year, new holes and cave-ins appear on the dikes. These must be repaired using heavy equipment such as an excavator and dump trucks. Many new damage areas have occurred on the Berkhahn bike trail loop, which is almost entirely on the dikes that surround Berkhahn flowage. Because the damage is so extensive and will require significant effort and expense to repair to meet the surface standards required to allow bicycle use, we will have to close the



bike trail this year while we work on the damage repairs. Hiking on the trail will still be possible until September 1<sup>st</sup> when the no access refuges go into effect.

One important tool that is needed for us to accomplish our habitat management on the property is a vehicle that has low ground pressure for use in soft marsh ground and in deep snow. For over twenty years we have used a tracked machine for this purpose. That machine is no longer serviceable. We are hoping to replace it with a new UTV (utility vehicle) with tracks and a cab. The UTV will be used for prescribed burning in sedge marsh areas and for access and hauling equipment to remote areas on wet soft ground and snow. We are offering the opportunity to organizations and individuals who may desire to assist us with our habitat and property management work by donating towards the purchase of this UTV. Any donation amount would be greatly appreciated! Contact me or one of the Mead staff if you would like to contribute.

Thank you, and do come out and enjoy spring/summer on the Mead Wildlife Area. Life here will be abundant and as varied as the many different habitats found on this gem of central Wisconsin. It is yours to enjoy, and the staff and volunteers who assist us are dedicated to caring for its natural resources.

## Friends of the Mead/McMillan

### Officers:

- *President—Jeremiah Smith  
Wausau: 715-572-6372  
Email: jere1683@gmail.com*
- *V-President-Justin Guthman  
Mosinee: 715-650-3032 Email:  
Justin.Guthman@ascension.org*
- *Secretary—Connie Milz  
Milladore: 715-457-3106*
- *Treasurer—Matt Ahles  
Mosinee: 920-991-2209*

### Directors:

- *Joan Dickrell*
- *Marlene Furo*
- *Arne Ruha*
- *John Shippy*

**Please Note:** We are currently looking for people to fill the vacancies on the Board. If interested please contact VP—Justin Guthman for an application.

### DNR Staff on board:

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

### Webmaster:

- *Justin Guthman*

### Newsletter Editor:

- *Dave Grabski  
dgrabski99@gmail.com*



## **Dragonfly Pond Docks**

**Article by Don Fox Photos by Pam Resech**

On February 12, Wildlife Volunteers, Don Fox, Dick Shepherd, Warren Austin and Tim Kaiser started renovating the Dragonfly Pond docks. They removed all the old Tommy Dock structures except for the two landing ramps. On Wednesday, Don & Dick tried to cut through the ice to remove the metal support poles. They were not successful.



The following week they tied plastic water jugs to the poles, so when the ice melts the poles will be easier to find and remove. The docks had been in place over twelve years. When removing them, the volunteers found that the wood had

deteriorated and the docks were unsafe. They recommended using new lumber, but they will try to repurpose any salvageable lumber.

John Shippy approached the Friends Board with the proposed construction plan designed by Tim Kaiser and the cost estimate. Because these new docks will enhance the students' wetland study, the board voted to fund this project. The Wildlife Volunteers ordered the supplies, which will be delivered on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Construction and installation to follow.



## **Winter Wildlife Hike - Saturday, February 10**

**Article and Photos by Pam Resech**



Visitors enjoyed a beautiful winter day snowshoeing and hiking around the Visitor Center Saturday, looking for and seeing different signs of wildlife.





## **Greeter Program**

### **Article by Connie Milz**

The Mead Educational Center will be open on Saturdays starting May 19 through the end of October in 2018. We usually try to have one or two volunteers from 11 am to 3 pm. These volunteers are considered greeters and are there to welcome visitors to the center. In the past we have had the center open on Sundays and if there is any interest I could set it up for individuals or a group of two to volunteer on a Sunday as well. When I have volunteered in the past I have met some very interesting people that visit our center from all over the state. There have been a few people that have come from other states to see our facility.

At this time, I have made the commitment to be a greeter on the first Saturday of every month starting in June. Starting with Saturday, May 19th, Mike Kietinski from Mosinee has volunteered for the third Saturday of every month. Thank you Mike!

Lucie Cutler will be at the center as a greeter and she is going to review her schedule and see when she can help for this season. What does your schedule look like? If you have volunteered in the past and I have not yet contacted you please give me a call 715-457-3106. Leave a message if I am not around, I will get back to you.

## **Work of the Friends Association**

### **Article by Connie Milz**

The Friends of the Mead/McMillan Association, Inc. had a meeting on March 13, 2018. I would like to summarize the minutes of the meeting and give you some idea of the work that we do. FYI; we do all the regular things like review minutes from the last meeting and look at our financial report.

We saw pictures of the two signs we are going to put up in the Little Birch area. If you have an opportunity to hike in the Mead check out the educational signs we have placed around the property.

There are volunteers working on the docks at the Dragonfly pond. These docks were all in bad shape and need of repair. Volunteers that are working on this project are: (using the alphabet to list the names) Warren Austin, Don Fox, Tim Kaiser, Dick Shepherd, and John Shippy.

The Amphitheater repair is moving forward but before we can continue we need to get the design approved by an engineer. This area is a popular site for school groups that come out to visit our educational center.

Brian Peters explained that the Mead needs to purchase a UTV and he is currently looking for funding in the form of donations and/or grants. The Friends group did donate \$2500 to this endeavor.

Jim Yulga addressed our group as a guest. He explained our Planned Giving brochure needs specific language to be given to a lawyer if a person wants to leave part of their estate to the Friends group for continued education. We are working to update that brochure.

Another opportunity we had to fund an educational program was a speaker for the Winged Wonders event. It has been very popular in the past so look for the dates this year or call us for more information.

We are planning for Spooktacular event that is held in October about the time ghosts and goblins roam the area. We need some new costumes and it was decided to fund this sewing project. Are you good with a sewing machine and looking for a volunteer opportunity? Contact me at 715-457-3106. If I don't answer you can leave a message and I will get back to you ASAP.



## **Mark Your Calendar's**

Next Friends Board meeting Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> @6pm

Winged Wonder Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup> @11-2pm (presenter at 12:30) (see more info below)

Fall Family Fest Sunday, Sept 16<sup>th</sup> @11-2pm

Spooktacular Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup> @5:30-8pm

## **The Wonderful World of Monarch Butterfly's Biography of Kathy McGrath**



Kathy McGrath taught at the elementary school in Port Edwards for 34 years, 31 of those in kindergarten. It was there that she got “hooked” on monarchs!

For years, she introduced her kindergarten students to the wonderful world of these beautiful butterflies by bringing in the caterpillars and putting them in 10-gallon aquariums so that her students could watch the whole metamorphosis from caterpillar, to chrysalis, to butterfly. She did this with students in her summer school classes and then with the children in her class in the fall. She taught the children how to “tag” the butterflies that would be making the long journey to Mexico.

After her retirement 9 years ago, she got into monarchs on a larger scale and enlisted the help of her husband. Together this past summer they raised and released over 1000 monarchs and tagged 300 of them for their trip to Mexico.

Kathy has been trying to educate the public about the decline of the monarchs and has given over 75 presentations to school groups, garden clubs, retired teachers, church groups and really anyone that is interested!

In the spring of 2017 she worked to have Port Edwards named the first Monarch Village in the United States. Over 370 people visited the monarch tent at the Monarch Festival/Port Fun Fest in August of 2017.



## Little Naturalist Storytime

Article by Marlene Furo

Photo by Pam Resech

Bring your kids for a day of fun at the Mead Wildlife Area for an adventure of hands on activities from crafts and outside adventure to interactive story telling.

**Time: Thursday 10am-Noon**

**Location:** Stanton W. Mead Education and Visitor Center

S 2148 County Hwy S

Milladore WI 54454



**July 19: ROCKS and MINERALS**-Did you know a rock is a naturally occurring solid made up of minerals? Learn more about rocks and minerals and have fun doing it.

**July 26: ENDANGERED SPECIES**-What's in your back yard? Learn about the endangered and threatened species in your area and what is being done to recover them.

**August 2: FOSSILS**-Fossils tell a story of a time long past. People have long been fascinated by the study of fossils. Find out about the fossils that are at the Mead and the history of the area.

**August 9: LIFE IN A LOGGING CAMP**-Logging has been a vital part of Wisconsin history and the life of a lumberjack remains a vivid element of Wisconsin folklore. Did you know there were seven logging camps located on the Mead property in the early 1900's?

**These events are Free and Open to the Public**

For more information call Joan Dickrell @715 457 6727

*Storytime's will occur whether rain or shine!*

This is a wonderful opportunity for all to come out and discover the wonders of Nature and still be able to take a bit of the WILD home with you.

## USSA

Article by Joan Dickrell

The Mead Wildlife Center and property will be hosting fifteen disabled or critically ill youth and Veteran hunters. These individuals, their families and mentors will be utilizing the Mead Center as well as hunting that wily turkey at the Mead on April 14th and 15th. This special weekend is open for youth turkey hunting. Youth and Veterans who have applied to hunt were selected by the United Special Sportsman Alliance (USSA) CEO. Fund raising events and many volunteers make these three days a unique experience for the eager hunters. This year all hunters are from Wisconsin. The USSA has hosted the youth turkey hunt in the area and has been allowed to hunt the Mead property, as well as private land, since 2007. The USSA organization is run by volunteer mentors, trainers and individuals who set-up blinds, food and activities for the hunters to participate in to experience an enjoyable and successful hunt while staying in the area. The Center will be busy with meal preparation and act as a serving area for the hunters, their families and the mentors. There will be down time for the family members, as well as the hunters, to explore what the Center has to offer and time to hike the trails and explore the property. This is an exciting opportunity for the Mead, as this hunt will make available both the property and Mead Center to the visiting hunters and their families.





## Winter Education (more photos on page 7) Article and Photos by Pam Resech



2nd grade students from Madison Elementary, Marshfield, had a great outdoor educational fieldtrip Friday, February 23rd. Joan Dickrell read the book, "Track that Scat" then students got to create their own scat & track based off of what the wildlife ate. Brandi Tempel led the "Scent Tracking" and camouflage lesson. Bob Sander and Pam Resech taught snowshoeing and had the students race with them on to test their agility. Everyone had a great day!

3rd grade students from Stratford Elementary braved the cold on Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, to learn how some animals use their sense of smell to track their prey and another game about How Animals Survive winter. Their other lesson explored a variety of Wisconsin mammals and the track patterns they make. Students put together a track book of these mammals to take home and use in their backyards.



Students from St. Paul's, Mosinee, enjoyed the beautiful winter day learning how to snowshoe, tracking mammals, creating tracking stories and how animals survive winter. They also got to see a live eastern screech owl and see all the cool adaptations owls have.



## Winter Education (continued from page 6) Photos by Pam Resech



## McMillan Marsh Matters Article by Kyle Christianson

Despite the snow outside, spring flooding has begun. Waterfowl have come back to the marsh. Throughout the month of March, we saw a stacking of birds in the area. With all the areas to the north locked in ice, birds have been forced to stage in available open water. Large numbers of geese, ducks, and swans are currently in the area. I've also heard reports of some white-fronted geese. Get out and enjoy this unique experience. Please remember some important rules as the snow recedes: Dogs must be on a leash from April 15<sup>th</sup> through July 31 and the bike trail opens May 1 and runs through August 31<sup>st</sup>. Be a good steward of the land and respect the rules as well as differing users of the property. If you have questions or concerns about the Marsh, feel free to contact me at [kyle.christianson@wisconsin.gov](mailto:kyle.christianson@wisconsin.gov) or by phone 715-457-6771. See you on the Marsh!



**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 Note:** the mailing label has your membership date. 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 Mead Visitor Center.

## **Wetland's Gazette**

### **Friends of the Mead/McMillan Membership**

#### **PLEASE CHECK RENEWAL DATE ON YOUR NEWSLETTER LABEL**

The Mead and McMillan Wildlife Areas are dedicated to preserving and enhancing areas in Central Wisconsin for many to enjoy and to learn about their wildlife heritage. Friends of the Mead/McMillan Association partner with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to promote this mission by volunteering and also offering financial support through membership in the Association.

Annual individual/family membership is \$30. Sponsor is \$100.00 per year, two additional Sponsor renewals becomes Lifetime. One time \$300.00 is Lifetime

Make Check payable to Friends of the Mead/McMillan. Please enter amount: Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

You can also use the form below to renew or upgrade your membership.

Renew online at [www.meadwildlife.org](http://www.meadwildlife.org) This website is also supported by members.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Friends of Mead/McMillan membership  
S2148 County Hwy S, Milladore, WI, 54454