



WETLAND'S GAZETTE

Volume 14, Issue 3

December 2018

From the Field

Article by Property Supervisor - Brian Peters
Photos by Pam Resech

I would like to introduce two new part-time staff hired to assist us with various duties and activities on the Mead and McMillan wildlife areas. Joan Voigt will be assisting Pam with education program work including lesson creation, teaching and preparation for field trips and events.

Jeremy Wall will be working with the field crew, volunteers and on his own to assist with facilities and habitat work on the wildlife areas. He will also be working on equipment maintenance duties here and at the Sandhill/Meadow Valley work unit near Babcock.



We are working with an engineering contractor to develop option plans to refurbish the amphitheater. The deteriorating condition necessitates a major overhaul including ADA access requirements. The Friends of the Mead/McMillan will be funding this project.

Waterfowl banding and the waterfowl hunting season have shown success. A total of 692 ducks were banded, mostly mallards and some wood ducks. Hunting season has gone well but there was one incident of a trumpeter swan being shot. The conservation warden with assistance from Mead staff was able to issue citations for the violation.

Helicopter spraying of brush and tree encroachment into open sedge meadow and upland grass habitats was conducted in August. Invasive cattail was also treated. Treatment will be analyzed next year but indications are that it was successful.

A small excavator was rented for one month and used for dike repair work. Larger fleet equipment is used for major dike damage repair projects. A wildlife program team is developing a heavy equipment use implementation plan to justify retaining vital equipment.

Sampling of harvested deer for CWD (chronic wasting disease) was intensified this year in the west central part of the state including Portage, Marathon and Wood counties. Hunters were encouraged to get their deer tested. Wildlife staff obtained samples and the test is free for any hunter who desires it.

Most wildlife permanent staff vacancies in central Wisconsin have been filled which is good news.

Two significant rain events this fall caused the river to rise over its banks. Flooding has delayed some planned projects.

To the right is a photo of the tracked UTV that the Friends Group and other donors helped to fund. It is being put to good use! Thanks!



Friends of the Mead/McMillan

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Directors:

- *Doug Aziz*
- *Joan Dickrell*
- *Dennis Dieringer*
- *Don Fox*
- *Marlene Furo*
- *Brian Lang*
- *Arne Ruha*
- *Robert Sander*
- *John Shippy*
- *Doug Urban*

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



Life Scout Project

Article by: Derek Vesely Photos by Paula Vesely

On October 19th, 2018, a group of scouts from Scout Troop 458, out of Marathon City, Wisconsin, came out to help at the Mead Wildlife Center. Once there, they helped the staff with cleaning pumpkins for the kids to paint for the upcoming Spooktacular Event.

Then they split up, with one group building a fun maze for the kids, while the other group helped clean up the gardens around the Center. They were supplied with weed scissors, and trimmed down the plants for the future ones in the spring.

The first group was supplied with shovels, digging holes for wood beams to be placed in the ground as the outline of the maze. The group worked for a total of 4 hours in the wet, windy cold.

Most of the scouts were completing a requirement needed for Life Scout, the last rank before Eagle, which required scouts to work 3 hours of conservation-related service to the community. The boys thought that the work was tiring, and was getting long towards the end, but overall was a very fun and neat experience. We would like to thank the Mead Wildlife Center for letting us come out and complete our requirement, and letting us use the equipment to get the job done.

Thanks for the refreshments and snacks. They kept the boys motivated to get through the day!



The boys are, left to right: Jacob Smith, Hunter Krautkramer, Marcos Cruz-Bloom, Darrin Vesely, Derek Vesely, Casey Hollenbeck, Garrison Treankler, Kyle Hollenbeck, (not pictured, Drake Carlson)





Rich Chronquist Central WI Outdoor Youth Day Photos by Pam Resech

The Mead Wildlife Area Education Center will be the host site for this event. The event will be new at Mead, but is not a new event. It has been happening for almost 30 years near the town of Lindsey on the Les and Melody Bergahl property.

The event will be held on Saturday April 27, 2019 from 9am-2pm.

Any youth age 16 and under are welcome!

All youth must attend with an adult.

Admission is FREE! Lunch will be provided.

Activities include: Gun Safety, Fly Fishing, Turkey Calling, Outdoor Cooking, .22 shoot, Archery Shooting, Trap Shooting, Leave No Trace, Flint Knapping, Dutch Oven Cooking, Casting for Fish and many more!!!



Education Donations - Photos by Pam Thompson & Chris Hamerla



Western Fraternal Life made a donation to the Mead Education Gift Account after volunteering at the Spooktacular event. Thank you very much! Left to Right: Jayda Felmer, Gladys Ruha, Pam Resech, Pam Thompson and Val Bradfish



Chris Hamerla dropped off this beautiful Pine Martin pelt for the Mead's Education program. The pine martin is an endangered species in the state of Wisconsin. But not in Alaska, where this one was trapped by Bruce Campbell. Thank you to the WI Trappers Association District 6.



New Friends Board Member Highlights

Article by Justin Guthman

Don Fox has been a member of the Friends since 2006. Since 2008 he has been a Wildlife Assistant volunteer for the Mead and McMillan Wildlife Areas. He served on the Friends Board from January 2009 to January 2015, serving as Secretary, Vice-President, President, and Special Projects Committee Chair. He also has been a Greeter volunteer. As a past Board member and current volunteer, Don has been involved in consulting, planning and coordinating activities with the DNR staff, Friends Board and volunteers to get special projects as well as regular property field work tasks completed. He continues to be part of the Wednesday Wildlife Assistant work crew involved in construction projects and property field work. As an active Wildlife Assistant volunteer and Life Time Member of Friends, as well as a past Board member, Don is aware of the importance of the Friends and wishes to once again actively participate in the planning process to achieve Friends stated goals.



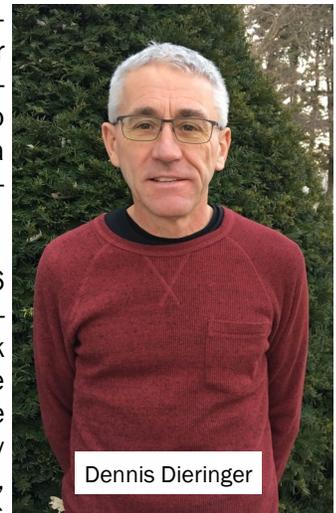
Don Fox



Doug Aziz

Doug Aziz has been a member of the Friends since the early 2000's. Served as President and continues to serve as a trustee of the Mead Wildlife Area Trust. Doug has volunteered as a Wildlife Assistant (Wednesday Work Group) for 8 years. Doug will bring a wealth of executive management experience to the board including but not limited to finance, personnel, and conflict management. Doug is a lifelong outdoorsman and has a passion for fishing, hunting, foraging, and birding.

Dennis Dieringer has been a Friends member since 1996 and a past board member. He was instrumental in the concept of the McMillan Marsh bike trail and continues to work with McMillan Marsh through his role as chairman for the Town of Spencer. Dennis grew up on a farm near the



Dennis Dieringer

McMillan Wildlife Area and always enjoyed watching the area wildlife. He enjoys many different aspects including birdwatching, hiking, some hunting and fishing. Furthermore, he likes seeing local properties open to the public for many different usages. Dennis has

a special interest in the McMillan Marsh area and wishes to bring forth new ideas for consideration.



Brian Lang

Brian J. Lang considers himself a "neighbor" of the Mead Wildlife Areas as he lives nearby in Auburndale. Brian have benefited from the Mead Wildlife Area many times, from hunting black bear, deer, birds, and fishing, to taking long hikes with my family on the trail systems. Both of his children participated in the Hunter Safety programs at the Mead Education Center. Brian has much to contribute to the board including project management, leadership, technology, and networking skills. Brian's desire to serve on the board is to contribute and learn to carry on the tradition of promoting and sustaining the Mead and McMillan State Wildlife Areas for future generations.

Robert (Bob) Sander wants to help the Mead Wildlife Area to continue to provide an access point to people of all ages to learn about and appreciate our tremendous natural resources in central Wisconsin. He strongly believes that people need contact with



New Friends Board Member Highlights (continued from page 4)

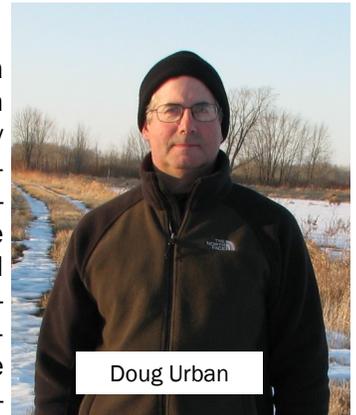


Bob Sander

nature to remain healthy. His experience as a Family Physician and Professor of Family Medicine provides a considerable amount of credibility that this is indeed true. Bob also believes that if we do not continue to educate people about the vulnerability of our natural resources, we will no longer have them to appreciate. Bob is a Wisconsin Master Naturalist and has been helping Pam with educational outings for school groups for the last 2 years. He is a welcome addition to the board and will bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise.

Doug Urban has lived on a farm near the Mead Wildlife Area for 27 years. He has spent many hours cycling and hiking in the Mead and has published a book containing photography of Mead wildlife, flowers and landscapes. He has volunteered as a greeter, lead Mead-sponsored snowshoe outings and bike rides, and works with the Friends of the Mead/McMillan Facebook page. His goals as a board

member are to assist with reopening the bike trail, hosting a pancake breakfast, continuing to support the youth education programs, and assist in maintaining a suitable habitat for ducks, geese and other waterfowl and wildlife. Doug is active and enjoys the following activities; hiking, camping, canoeing, cross-country skiing, photography, hunting, fishing, cycling, and mountaineering.



Doug Urban

Mead's Spooktacular Event and Food Drive Article & Photo by: Pam Resech

The Mead's 8th Annual Spooktacular Event was another huge successful event. The theme for this year's event was "Endangered Species". Costumes were purchased for 10 different species (donation money from Phyllis Christie) and 2 costumes (Greater Prairie Chicken and Little Brown Bat) were created and donated by talented seamstresses from the "Silver Threads" group in Portage county. Harvey Cherney donated all the pumpkins from his patch, Ron Furo donated the huge decoration pumpkins and Melanie Love donated the little white pumpkins. Rhonda Reigel baked and donated the sugar cookies and Terri Hamus donated the popcorn.

Over 60 volunteers, which included students from Wausau West High, Perry Cook's UWSP students, the UWSP EENA organization and the Scout Troop 458 from Marathon, donated their time before, during and after this event to help make it successful. Despite the cold weather, almost 300 hardy souls turned up and enjoyed all the activities provided.

One of the goals for this event is collect food donations for the local Food Pantry. Over 300 pounds of food were donated and delivered to St. Vincent DePaul's Food Pantry in Marshfield.

Thank you to everyone for their efforts! Mark your calendar for next year's event; October 19th 5-7:30pm. Smokey Bear will be back with his "Flying Friends"!





Festival at the Mead **Article & Photos by Sue Hall**

Over 150 families enjoyed a unique experience to “walk on the wild side” and enjoy nature while attending the Fall Family Festival at the Mead Wildlife Area on Sunday. One of the highlights was the live animal presentation by David Stokes, environmental educator from Milwaukee who entertained the audience with stories, animals found in their back yards and lots of humor.

Prior to his performance, the participants enjoyed a scavenger hunt, various “hands on” nature crafts including building a suet feeder, learning how frogs attack their prey, and a Wild Flower and Butterfly walk through the Mead’s grasslands.

Several UWSP students from Dr. Perry Cook’s Science Methods classes helped teach the various craft activities. Some of the comments from their experience were: “This was such a fun experience and provides the surrounding community with hands on learning and activities that actually engage children and adults in natural science”; “I saw a lot of kids build a suet feeder from scratch and felt accomplished when their project was all done”; “This festival was a great way to bring families together, especially on Grandparents Day; “Several middle school students said they were able to connect with what they had learned in school with what we were doing today, I know the kids learned a lot and so did I”.

The festival was co-sponsored by the Aldo Leopold Audubon Society and the Friends of the Mead/McMillan Assn.





McMillan Marsh Matters **Article by Kyle Christianson**

Many hunting seasons have come and will soon be ending. A few small game seasons and trapping seasons will continue into February and beyond. Good luck to everyone pursuing game. Water levels were difficult to maintain this fall due to heavy rain events. Flowages were quickly filled while the landscape held water throughout the watershed. It felt like we were in perpetual flood stage throughout the waterfowl season. In addition, cold temperatures came a little earlier making structures a bit more difficult to operate.

In mid-October the Marsh Road parking lot was vandalized. Several signs were shot and destroyed. Anyone with information is encouraged to call the DNR tip line at 1-800-TIP-WDNR. As always, if you have questions or concerns about the marsh. Please contact me at kyle.christianson@wisconsin.gov or 715-457-6771 ext. 3. Enjoy everything winter has to offer, and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

Work of the Friends Association **Article by Connie Milz**

The project to recognize Tom Meier's service has been completed. Tom will be contacted to see what he wants. It would be nice to possibly meet early for the May 7th meeting in 2019 when the weather could be nice and have a formal presentation.

The Amphitheater update was given and Brian will get three levels of cost to be presented for next year.

There is still a need to update the Agreement between the DNR and the Friends group. Connie Milz plans to get a copy updated to present at the Annual meeting and be ready to be approved and signed at the next regular meeting.

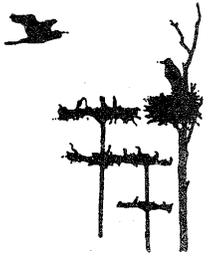
Pam gave us a list of grants that we can apply for during the coming year. The list gave us the name of the organization offering the grant with an explanation of the purpose. The list also included the title of the grant with the due date. Bob Sander expressed an interest in doing some grant writing in 2019.

A discussion about the cleaning of the building took place; it is difficult to get a cleaning service to come to the Mead because of the remote location. Joan Dickrell explained that she knows of someone that might be willing to clean the building but would like Joan to assist. Because Joan is on the board she was concerned about getting paid to clean. It was felt that she need not be concerned. They will meet with Pam about cleaning sometime later this month.

The Annual meeting will be January 12, 2019, starting at 9am and our next regular meeting is March 5, 2019, at 6pm.



Tom's recognition panel



**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 or stop by the Mead Visitor Center.

Wetland's Gazette

Friends of the Mead/McMillan
Association, Incorporated Board of Directors
invite you to attend the:

Annual Membership Meeting 9am Saturday January 12, 2019

Please plan to attend this Annual Membership meeting. At this meeting we will be reviewing our activities of the past year, electing officers and board members and discussing our plans for the future.

Stanton W. Mead Education and Visitor Center

Bring a friend and enjoy a morning at the Mead.

Refreshments will be provided.



Third Annual Soup Contest
After the meeting help judge the Board's soup making abilities. Bragging rights are on the table!

