



WINTER 2013

# TAMARAC TRACKS

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Cover photo by Dominique Braud

# WHEN FARMERS BECAME LOGGERS & LOGGING CAMP MONEY

By Don Blanding, President of the Board

Amos Anderson was the son of Norwegian immigrants who homesteaded north of Audubon, Minnesota around 1880. Amos married and raised his own family on the "home place" before moving to Detroit Lakes in his retirement.

Amos, his wife, and an adult daughter lived immediately south of us in the middle of town. As winter approached, a large truck delivered a load of eight foot logs. Amos sawed the logs into the appropriate length for his wood burning furnace and then split them as needed. All of this was done by hand. No gas chain saws or log splitters. I would guess his age as mid 70s. His normal attire was work boots, heavy wool pants with suspenders, a homemade wool sweater, checkered wool hat with ear flaps, and of course heavy leather choppers with wool mitten liners. My part in all of this was to toss the split pieces through a chute into the firewood room adjacent to the basement furnace.

to 30 miles from the farm to the logging camps in and around what is now the Tamarac National Wildlife refuge. They would walk home for the Christmas season and then walk back to camp for the balance of the winter.

Lumber camp was hard work. The bunkhouse smelled of wet wool, tobacco, and body odor. Huge meals in the mess hall were required to fuel all the hard work in subzero conditions. The company store provided what little was needed, such as replacement clothing, tobacco, soap, mending materials and the like. One such camp was owned and run by Joseph Boniface (J.B.) Sprafka, father of the late Dr. A. E. Sprafka, and grandfather of Ron Sprafka, both of Detroit Lakes. The main camp was located immediately north of Tamarac Refuge near Rat Lake.

On payday, the men were paid in "Sprafka money" good only at the company store. The typical, immediate reaction to such a system is to conclude that the camp owner is simply taking advantage of the men in this monopolistic environment. A day long walk to another store was out of the question. But think again. Because it was Sprafka money it was of no value anywhere else, a clear deterrent to theft. Also, should a logger show up at the company store with an unexplained amount of these funds, his fate was in danger. Most importantly, Sprafka money could be exchanged for U.S. currency at the same value. The exchange could be made at



any time, but typically was done at the end of camp and the logging season. Camp owners needed all of the capable labor involved, and there was every incentive to treat the loggers as fairly as possible

Descendants of J. B. Sprafka have a few coins of Sprafka money, and perhaps descendants of the loggers do as well. Camp money was all in coins, the largest being \$1.00. The coins themselves had no metallic value and were typically imprinted with the camp name or owner's name, or both. With a knowledgeable guide, one can still find huge piles of sawdust under the topsoil where sawmills were located. Probably some camp money can be found in the sawdust as well. One never knows.

My thanks to Ron and Sandy Sprafka for how they put some real life into this article.



As part of a grade school assignment, I interviewed Amos as a typical Minnesota Pioneer. The most memorable part is the time Amos spent away from the farm. Once the fall harvest was complete, Amos and others like him would walk the 25



## Become a Friend

Membership: \$20

Patron: \$100

Steward: \$250

Life Member: \$500



### Friends of Tamarac NWR

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The Friends of Tamarac NWR is a 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to facilitate activities and programs that interpret, protect and restore the natural and cultural resources of the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge.

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**Vonnie Jacobson, Fran Mattson, Linda Brockmann, Justine Boots, Kelly Blackledge, Nancy Brennan**

*Tamarac Tracks* is a publication of the Friends of Tamarac serving both the Friends and the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge. *Tamarac Tracks* is published four times a year, mailed to members and made available as an electronic PDF on our website. Please discuss article ideas in advance with the newsletter coordinator ([jjacobson@arvig.net](mailto:jjacobson@arvig.net)).

# THE VALUE OF FRIENDS...**PRICELESS!**

By Neil Powers, Tamarac Refuge Manager

During the Annual Meeting I shared a story about how even small acts of support by our Friends can have a huge impact that benefits the mission of the refuge. In my example, the Friends of Tamarac provided some funds to support an outreach event planned with a group of local County Commissioners and other officials. The event was designed to showcase our Private Lands Program with the intent of fostering the start of a solid working relationship. Plans were made that included a picnic with Friends who supplied sub sandwiches from a local vendor, lawn chairs, and a pasture full of what else, cows! Some of you may think a "picnic in the pasture" is not the way to wow new friends, but this is exactly the type of backdrop we needed to get our point across and make the right connections.

Recently, the results of this event were realized during a meeting with these same County Commissioners to request their support for the acquisition of wetland conservation easements from several landowners, which is a required step in the purchase process that doesn't always go smoothly. Fortunately for Tamarac, we

received unanimous approval to acquire these tracts which will provide perpetual protection for over 100 wetland acres. These easements protect critical wetlands and provide high quality habitats for a variety of wildlife species like wood ducks, mallards, muskrats, and great blue herons. In addition, wetland conservation can assist with flood reduction, reduce soil erosion and downstream deposition, and provide ground water recharge and recreational opportunities.

Often times, it can be difficult to measure the direct impacts and success generated by events of this nature. However, the opportunity to share experiences and personal stories during a meal can be priceless in terms of building a relationship that could lead to a future partnership. I am convinced that this Friends-sponsored



event laid a foundation that supported an opportunity to communicate in a meaningful way and ultimately provided an opportunity to protect wildlife habitat and grow the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The value of a few sub sandwiches and a "picnic in the pasture"...\$72.00. The value of Friends...priceless!

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## NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Thanks so much to the many Friends of Tamarac members who have renewed their memberships for the coming year and a big WELCOME to all our new members. Membership runs from October 1 through September 30 each year. The following is a list of members for this year, as of November 15, 2012.

### NEW LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Lanny and Lois Brantner  
Jim and Cindy Legler  
George and Sally Oja  
Blace and Myrna Schmidt

### NEW PATRONS

Sue Braun and Gerald Schumacher  
Sandra Gordon  
Dixie Johnson  
George Wallman

### MEMBERSHIPS

Monica and Dennis Arens  
Peter and Jacqueline Aschbacher  
Georgian Bachmann  
Rod and Deanie Bergen  
Kelly and Scott Blackledge  
Andrea and Jordan Bonney  
Justine and John Boots

Bob and Linda Bork  
Barbara and Peter Boyle  
Duane and CarolAnn Dahlberg  
Stacy and Matthew Davis  
Lynne Durward and Robert Louiseau  
Jim DuBay and Cathie Ferguson  
Luverne and Jeanine Ehnert  
Roger and Debra Engstrom  
Lois Flatau  
Rikki and John Given  
Dan and Kim Grandbois  
Mark and Mary Green  
Claris and Rosie Greenland  
Betty and Dave Gunderson  
Harry Halvorson  
Jim and Theresa Haney  
Greg and Barbara Hauschild  
Richard and Georgia Hecock  
Bill and Nancy Henke  
John Hovdeness

John and Vonnie Jacobson  
John and Roma Jacoby  
Ron and Janice Jenson  
Roland and Leona Jordahl  
Frank and Peggy Kohoutek  
Sue Kostynick  
Ray and Nancy Lacina  
Shar and Paul Legenhausen  
Dianne Leslie  
Kathryn Long  
Karl and Henrietta Malchow  
Pippi Mayfield  
David and Janice Millford  
Miriam and David Moen  
Nancy Mouldren  
Beverly Olander  
Leif and Marisa Olson  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Olson  
Ruth Olson  
Tim and Kathy Olson

William and LuAnn Otto  
John and Margot Peterka  
Neil and Amy Powers  
Helen Rudie  
Bev and Stan Satre  
Dave and Janine Schneider  
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Jim and Jan Stewart  
Alan and Diane Turcotte  
Karen and Gary VanBuskirk  
George and Barbara Weatherston  
Samantha Weatherston  
Bill and Deb Wickum  
Dick and Claire Wilson  
Vivian Sazama

### DONATIONS

Simon Baker  
Katherine Richardson

# Toast to **TAMARAC**



Who needs Napa Valley when you have Toast to Tamarac at the Richwood Winery



Toast to a very successful FOT fundraiser



Great evening, perfect weather and a wonderful crowd

**PLEASE MAKE USE  
OF THE BUSINESSES  
THAT SUPPORT US!**

ANDERSON PUMPING

LAKES PROCESSING

PETE'S RICHWOOD STORE

LAKE COUNTRY BAKERY

RICHWOOD WINERY

CENTRAL MARKET

CAULFIELD'S STUDIO

WE FEST

BARREL OF FUN

ESSENTIA HEALTH

MENARDS

WAL-MART

KDLM/KBOT

DL NEWSPAPERS

TV 3

## SILENT AUCTION CONTRIBUTORS

Ace Hardware  
Amazing Mae's Tea House  
Anderson, Buggie  
Barbara's Hair and Body  
Becker Pet and Garden  
Becker, Chuck  
Becker County Historical  
Society  
Becker, Mitch  
Ben Franklin  
Bengtson, Janice  
Bergen's Garden Center  
Best Pets  
Blackledge, Kelly  
Blanding, Carolyn  
Book World  
Boots, John and Justine  
Boyer, Sandy  
Braun, Sue  
Brennan, Nancy  
Brockmann, Linda and Bob  
Brown, Pat  
Cheryl Lynn's, Vergas  
Chinese Dragon

Country Fields Greenhouse  
and Landscaping  
Curves, Jodi Zeller  
David- Donehower Funeral  
Home  
Detroit Lakes Floral  
Detroit Lakes Municipal  
Liquor Store  
DLCCC Holmes Center  
Elm Street Boutique, Vergas  
Embellish Resale Boutique  
Fireside  
Flaten, Lois  
Friends of Tamarac Board  
Grace Lutheran Church  
Gunderson, Erik  
Halvorson, Dodie  
Holiday Station Store  
Hunt, Tom  
International Pine to Prairie  
Birding Trail  
Jacobson, Vonnie and John  
Jasken, MaryAnn and Jim  
JC Penny's

Jenson, Michele  
Jenson, Ron and Jan  
Jerry's Optical  
La Barista  
Lacina, Nancy,  
La De Da Décor and Design  
Lake Country Bakery  
Lakeshirts  
Lakes Sport Shop  
M & H Gas and Convenience  
Store  
Main Street Restaurant  
Mattson, Fran and Ken  
Michael's Furniture  
New Horizon Resort  
Norby's Department Store  
Northland Realty  
Olivieri's  
Olson, Nancy  
Papa Murphy's  
Paradise, Marg  
Patterson, Betty  
Perkins Restaurant  
Pizza Hut

Plant Connection  
Powers, Neil and Amy  
Price's Fine Jewelry  
Radio Shack  
Richwood Winery  
Sandbar II  
Scheels  
Schiffer, Jean  
Schmidt, Myrna  
Smokey Hills Deer Club  
Stich, Rick  
Swansons Repair  
Tamarac Refuge Gift Shop  
Tesoro/Big Daddy's Quick  
Shop  
The Social Cup  
Thompson, Lyn  
Thrifty White Drug  
Tires Plus  
Trader Joe's  
Warweg, Julie and Denise  
We Fest Organization  
Wells Fargo  
Wickum, Bill and Deb

# 2012 Fall Festival **SWANS:** A Tamarac Legacy



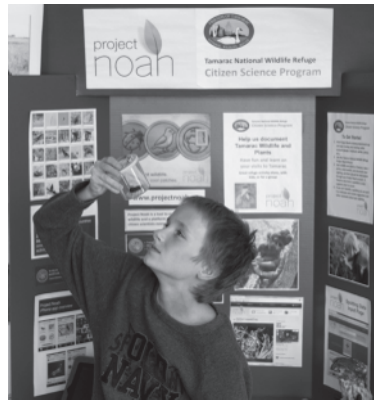
The 2012 Fall Festival was in a unique setting by three pioneer cabins on an absolutely beautiful fall day with temperatures in the 80's and colors at their peak. There were opportunities for visitors of all ages to travel through learning stations and gain insight into the trumpeter swan.



It was the first time that the Becker County Historical Society partnered with the refuge to share information as they brought in clothing and memorabilia of the time period of the early settlers who lived in the pioneer cabins.



Young citizen scientists get a chance to explore and discover what kind of sightings they might make while out in nature.



Sydney Henderson, Tamarac intern, shared the story of the swans--their disappearance and their successful reintroduction at Tamarac.



Young and old took the swan challenge as they waddled into the grounds, measured their wing span, sampled food similar to the bird's food, and created puppets and origami. Sonia is comparing her size to that of the trumpeter's.



Talented Michael Gallo mesmerized children and adults with his creativity. He captivated his audiences with puppetry and creative dramatics in his energetic interactive performances.

# GO OUT AND *Tamarac Watch!*

By Connie Carlson

Our Environmental Education classes are using a new activity this year called “Tamarac Watch.” At our outdoor classroom located in the Chippewa Lake Picnic Area, students are participating in a form of nature observation called Tamarac Watching. It is patterned after a nature observation technique developed by Ernest Thompson Seton. He was an author, illustrator, naturalist and one of the founders of the Boy Scouts of America. Throughout his life he was known to go outdoors, sit, observe, and enjoy nature’s happenings.

To elaborate on “Tamarac Watch,” the objective of this activity is for students to sit-quietly and carefully observe the outdoors with all their senses. As they notice things, they record their observations in a personal field journal. They learn to Leave No Trace of their voices in the woods and to think silently. They may not realize it at first, but they are not just making first-hand scientific discoveries.



They are, in fact, benefiting from nature’s solitude. After completing their Tamarac Watch, the students reflect on their discoveries with one another by discussing the observations they have recorded in their journals. They frequently are excited to tell about the surprises; the beauties; and the wonders they have experienced. Their observations will include such things as red squirrel chatter, bald eagles circling overhead, fluffy white seeds on cattails, and insect galls on goldenrod plants. This new activity, we believe, will provide students with a real opportunity to not only observe nature, but to experience it as well.

# OGEMA KINDERGARTEN

## Explores TAMARAC

By Cecilia Brininger, Amy Houdek, Sarah Allen  
Ogema Elementary Kindergarten Teachers

Kindergarten students from Ogema Elementary School have been experiencing Tamarac Refuge three times a year for the past three years. Thanks to the Friends of Tamarac, transportation to and from the refuge has been paid for. Without this help, our students would not be able to participate in this "outdoor classroom." The opportunity to learn about animals, habitats, and the seasons are a vital part of our kindergarten curriculum.

Kindergarten students are excited to participate in the learning stations that await them at Tamarac Refuge. These stations are carefully planned by refuge staff and volunteers to address the state and national kindergarten science standards. The stations are appropriately geared toward the interests, abilities, and needs of kindergarten students. The staff and volunteers make the learning engaging and enjoyable. They do a wonderful job interacting and teaching the students in small groups.



Visiting Tamarac Refuge in the seasons of fall, winter and spring allows the students to be immersed in the environment and to experience nature first hand. In the fall, the learning focuses on

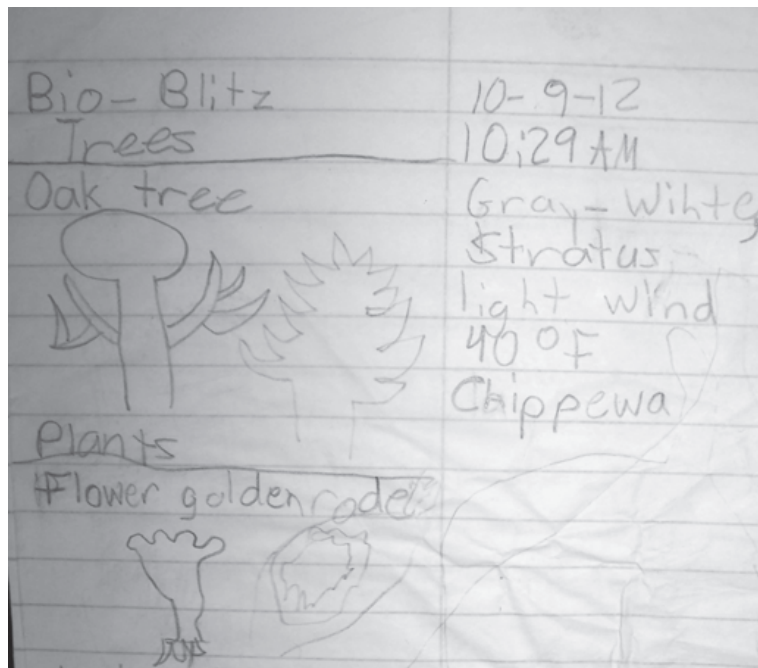
migration and hibernation, food sources for animals, looking for signs of fall, and meeting the various trees of Tamarac. Winter curriculum includes animal identification, food sources for the winter animals, and looking for animal tracks. In the spring, students learn about the various signs of spring, including the awakening of frogs and identifying them based on the calls they make. The learning stations for each season always provide the opportunity for students to take digital photographs, to learn songs with a puppet show, and to play a physically active game, pretending to be a certain animal.



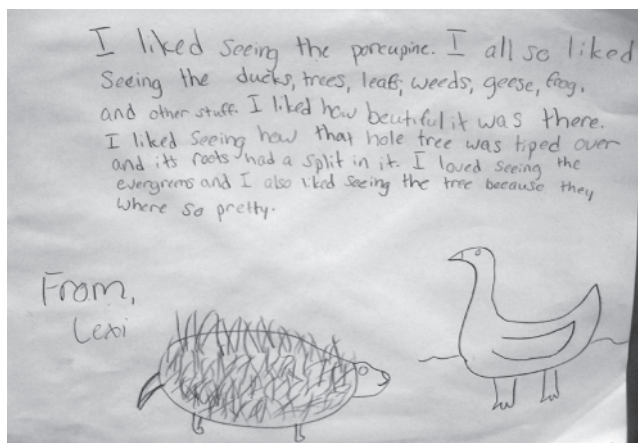
We feel privileged to have the opportunity to visit Tamarac Refuge as part of our classroom learning. It is so nice to be able to attend an outdoor learning environment close to our school. Our students benefit greatly from learning about animals, their habitat, and the seasons while experiencing the beauty of Tamarac. Thank you, Friends of Tamarac, for providing our students with this enhanced learning experience! We look forward to many more years of learning!

# BIO-BLITZ, ART & STORY

By Roosevelt 3rd Graders



Circle of Life girls enjoying the snow.



# LOCAL YOUTH TAKES GRAND

by Janice Bengtson

# PRIZE

Thirteen year old Anna Donner of Ogema took the top honors in Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge's 11th Annual Photography Contest. Her photo, All in a Drop was chosen out of 153 entries. In addition, Anna also took home a first place ribbon in the Nature's Abstracts category and first in the 13-17 year old Youth Category for the same photo.



Anna shows off her winning photo and ribbons.

Anna's winning photo was taken while out on a refuge field trip as part of a 5-day Nature of Technology summer day camp. The camp is sponsored by the White Earth Tribal and Community College Extension and is funded through a grant awarded by the MN State Community and Technical College, in partnership with the U of MN 4-H. The camp gives students an opportunity to learn GPS technology, nature photography, how to use an Apple iPad along with online editing and photo design programs. Students not only spent time on foot but also kayaked Tamarac's waters to gain a different perspective. "The camp is a great way to get kids outside to discover and capture nature," said Joe Courneya, U of MN extension educator. Students process their work and prepare for a show at the end of the week as well as submitting photos to Tamarac's contest. This was Anna's second year attending the tech

camp, and she said, "the most memorable part was going to Tamarac taking a whole bunch of pictures."

According to the DL Middle School student, "I was just walking through the woods looking for spider webs or cool trees to take pictures of...things that had detail or were unique. When I was walking, I saw the sap, and I thought it would be a cool picture." She took the photo but had no idea how it would turn out. Anna arrived just in time to the awards presentation to find out she won the grand prize. She was so shocked she thought she was dreaming! Anna loves nature photography because "there are so many unique things out in nature that you might only see one in summer or one in winter or once in your life.

You can take an amazing picture of it, making things look more unique than they are." For Anna, pictures also tell stories, or have emotions in them.

Judge Brian Basham photographer for the Detroit Lakes Record, commented; "It was a different picture from a different perspective. It's almost like gazing into a ball where you have to look deep into the droplet to see the whole picture. It just made us want to look at it more. And to find out it was taken by a young photographer with a simple camera shows that great photography can come from anywhere. You don't need the greatest equipment or a degree, you just need to look for it."

Gale Kaas, publisher of the Frazee Forum, and Joe Allen, professional photographer also

returned for another year to judge the entries. The contest consists of five categories including Plant Life, Scenic, Nature's Abstracts, Recreation, and Wildlife. There were two youth categories as well. There were 45 participants.

Refuge manager Neil Powers chose Silvery Blue on Gold by Lee Kensinger of Detroit Lakes as his favorite. Orange Sulphur by Dale Rehder of West Fargo was chosen by The Friends of Tamarac Board of Directors as their favorite. John Dermody of Frazee took the People's Choice award for his Purple Tamarac Moon. This award was determined by public voting at Tamarac's Annual Fall Festival and during National Wildlife Refuge Week at the Washington Square Mall. Over 450 people voted.

The Tamarac NWR Photo Contest recognizes outstanding amateur photography that showcases the wildlife, plant life, and natural beauty of the refuge. The contest provides the refuge an opportunity to increase its photo collection used to promote the refuge and its mission. Photos may be used in public presentations, newspaper, brochures, exhibits, the refuge website, and Facebook page. The annual photo contest is sponsored by the Friends of Tamarac.



Judges Gale Kaas, Brian Basham, and Joe Allen



# LIST OF WINNERS:

**Grand Prize** - All in a Drop - Anna Donner of Ogema

**Manager's Choice** – Silvery Blue on Gold by Lee Kensinger of Detroit Lakes

**Friend's Choice** –Orange Sulphur by Dale Rehder of West Fargo

**People's Choice** – Purple Tamarac Moon by John Dermody of Frazee

## Recreation

Lazy Day Fish – Diane Turcotte, Detroit Lakes

Evening Solitude – Claudine Grove, Alexandria, MN

A Pristine View – Claude Mosher, Detroit Lakes

## Honorable Mention:

Human Disregard – Alyssa Olson, Bejou

## Plant Life

Sumac – Doug Bellefeuille, Detroit Lakes

Shaded Petal - Justine Haugo, Mahnomen

Thistle – Ward New, Suches, GA

## Honorable Mentions:

The Water Flower – Miyah Rojas, Callaway

Yellow Violet – Dale Rehder, West Fargo

Flower Reflection – Alyssa Olson, Bejou

## Nature's Abstracts

All in a Drop – Anna Donner, Ogema

Floating Along – Denise Morris, Fargo

Fun Guy – Dale Rehder, West Fargo

## Honorable Mentions:

Pretty Polypores – Stacy Moe, Vergas



Contest entries on display at the Washington Square Mall.

Bubbles and Bullheads – Katherine Anderson, New York Mills

Fast Food Package – Lee Kensinger, Detroit Lakes

## Wildlife

Silvery-Blue on Gold – Lee Kensinger, Detroit Lakes

Sunbathing – Renae Poole, Dania, FL

Bald Eagle – Dale Rehder, West Fargo

## Honorable Mentions:

A Kiss for Ya! – Stacy Moe, Vergas

Mating Rituals – Denise Morris, Fargo

Tamarac Ruby – Sandra Boyer, Rochert

Spider – Patrick Estey, Mahnomen

## Scenic

Spring Sunset – Claudine Grove, Alexandria, MN

Foggy Point – Doug Bellefeuille, Detroit Lakes

Peaceful Evening – Carolyn Wenger, Detroit Lakes

## Honorable Mentions:

Blue Sunset – Alan Turcotte, Detroit Lakes

Yellow Flowers on a Woodland – Claudine Grove, Alexandria

## Youth 1 (12 and under)

Water Lily – Elizabeth Reich, Waubun

Spider – Christian Applebee, Mahnomen

Natural Framing – Christian Applebee, Mahnomen

## Honorable Mentions

Fire of the Forest – Destane Londo, Mahnomen

Winged Warrior – Alice Moore, Mahnomen

Sumac Fuzz – Adam Gulseth, Mahnomen

Pink 2 – Christian Applebee, Mahnomen

## Youth 2 (13-17)

All in a Drop – Anna Donner, Ogema

Shaded Petal – Justine Haugo, Mahnomen

Human Disregard – Allyssa Olson, Bejou

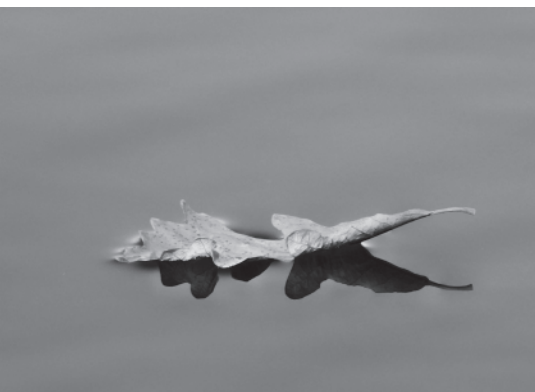
## Honorable Mentions:

Red Swirl – Tessa Zima, Waubun

Flower Reflection – Alyssa Olson, Bejou

Water Way – Anna Donner, Ogema

The Water Flower – Miyah Rojas, Callaway



Floating Along by Denise Morris



Silvery-blue on Gold by Lee Kensinger



Foggy Point by Doug Bellefeuille

# GOOD VOLUNTEER VIBRATIONS IN 2012!

by Janice Bengtson

During the FY 2012, 192 volunteers donated over 9030 hours of their time – A new record!

Volunteer Andy Flaten spent 4 months last winter working on maintenance projects, data entry, tracking wolves and more - contributing over 400 hours.

Twenty-one folks came out for our Earth Day clean-up day in April. Eighteen of you came out and packed up our office and provided some much needed humor during our move in July.

Volunteers shined during the Festival of Birds! The Friends prepared and hosted a wonderful dinner for nearly 100 people celebrating the return of the trumpeter swan. They also provided a hearty breakfast for early birders on the Tamarac field trip. Many others helped prepare for the event by stuffing nametags, setting up displays, working registration.

Cheers to our Resident Volunteers Bonnie and Jerry Compton and Pat and Ward New. They contributed a combined effort of nearly 1300 hours! We were fortunate Bonnie and Jerry were able to start in May to assist with the Festival of Birds, manage the visitor center on weekends and assist with our move. Pat and Ward arrived mid-summer and stayed until after our first snow! They managed to accomplish many maintenance projects and contributed greatly to our fall environmental education programs.

We launched our Aquatic Invasive Education Team this past summer under the leadership of volunteer Craig Lewis. Two hundred hours were donated by these volunteers: Art Bakker, Lanny and Lois Brantner, Dave Gunderson, Harry Halvorson, Charlie Leitheiser, Ken Mattson, Carol and Rod Nord, Howard Lohman, and John Haack. The purpose of this team is to educate boaters on invasive species and prevent-

ing their spread. Please consider joining the team next spring.

Volunteers donated over 900 hours to the American Woodcock Study led by Graduate Student Kyle Daly. This was his final season of research. He is very grateful for all the help.

Connie Carlson, Nancy Brennan, and Jeanine Ehnert attended a three day workshop “Teaching in the Outdoor Classroom” at Prairie Wetlands Learning Center in Fergus Falls.

Both Luverne and Jeanine Ehnert were named the 2012 Volunteers of the Year. Denis Mudderman and Craig Lewis launched Tamarac’s Citizen Science program through Project Noah. Using GPS and photography, folks can document Tamarac’s wildlife and plant sightings on this website.

42 volunteers hosted our Annual Fall Festival – Swans, A Tamarac Legacy. It was a great success because of you! Thanks for being great representatives of the FWS. Wanted: Environmental Educators and Assistants. If you enjoy working with kids in the outdoors, come join us! Training is provided and most start by shadowing activities. Our team needs to grow with our growing program! It would be great to



AIS educators Craig Lewis and Charlie Leitheiser set up at East Tamarac access.

have more than one volunteer trained to lead an activity. If someone becomes ill or something else comes up, we are in a pickle! Our EE team is a fun group! Kindergarteners and 3rd graders visit the refuge 3 times a year: Fall (October), Winter (early February), Spring (mid-May). Aquatic Invasive Species Educators for next summer– most shifts are weekends. Why not spend a beautiful morning or afternoon at one of our lake accesses while visiting with boaters about protecting our lakes. Naturalists- would you like to lead a hike, a Wild Wednesday program for young children or a Wildlife Excursion? This is your chance to share your knowledge of the nature of Tamarac.

Let’s look forward to another exciting year in 2013!



Rod and Carol Nord, Nancy Brennan and Dave Schneider spruce up the grounds on Earth Day.

## FRIENDS OF TAMARAC 2012 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Developed and initiated a Capital Campaign for the Discovery Center
- Celebrated Tamarac's Annual Fall Festival "Swans: A Tamarac Legacy" with 600 guests.
- Hosted "A Toast to Tamarac", a successful fundraiser with over 200 guests.
- The We Fest fund raising effort with 30 volunteers participating.
- The Nature of Learning grant completed.
- Supported Tamarac Environmental Education Program with 1400 visits from local school students.
- Created a Tamarac NWR Citizen Science Program through Project Noah.
- Created a Naturalist Committee.
- Sponsored The Tamarac Photo Contest which had 152 entries.
- Connected to members and friends by use of a quarterly newsletter, Tamarac Tracks.
- Co-sponsored the 2012 Detroit Lakes Festival of Birds.
- Participated at The Picnic in the Park at Detroit Lakes.
- Helped Tamarac NWR with interpretive programs.
- Contributed over 9,000 volunteer hours at Tamarac.
- Participated in spring clean-up and the move to temporary quarters.
- Monitored lakes for aquatic invasive species compliance.
- Partnered with Prairie Wetlands Learning Center for volunteer education training.



George and Sally Oja enjoy Friends of Tamarac Annual Meeting

## THE BIRDS OF MINNESOTA: A Festival Quilt

Submitted by Justine Boots

In late summer and early fall, nine hundred and eighty-one raffle tickets were sold for a chance to win the "Birds of Minnesota" quilt, which had been on display at the Toast to Tamarac and later at the Fall Festival in September. The name on the winning ticket drawn from the glass bowl belonged to Coleen Tietz, a Detroit Lakes resident who had purchased five tickets at the Toast to Tamarac. When she learned that she had won the quilt she responded: "I was absolutely thrilled at my good fortune -- a gift from the Tamarac community; a Christmas gift for my mother-in-law who is a birder and loves birds; a gift that will last a lifetime." The birds in the center of the quilt are all part of our northern Minnesota landscape: bluebirds, chickadees, cardinals, goldfinches, robins, orioles, and meadowlarks. The quilt was designed and created by

three Tamarac Refuge volunteers: Buggie Anderson, MaryAnn Jasken, and Justine Boots. It was machine-sewn, hand-tied, and was finished with a hand-stitched border. Their collective efforts produced a beautiful donation to the 2012 Fall Festival silent auction table. The \$981.00 will be used for the many refuge projects which promote environmental education for area children.



Quilt winner Coleen Tietz

## WILD WINTER ACTIVITIES

Come out and explore the refuge! Winter can bring some of the best wildlife watching. You can see deeper into the forest and the snow pack absorbs sound making listening for wildlife crisp and clear. There are 8 miles of occasionally groomed cross-country ski trails. Pine, Tamarac, Wauboose and Two Island Lakes are open for ice fishing. Restrooms are located at Pine Lake and Chippewa.

### Sunday January 13, 2:00 pm

Snowshoe Science Adventure - Come explore the science of winter and learn how to turn your Tamarac wildlife and plant sightings into a documented observation. Become a citizen scientist using Project Noah. Bring your camera if you have one. Meet at the Pine Lake Parking Area for this leisurely trek through the snow. Snowshoes for children are available for loan. Adult snowshoes are limited.

Pine Lake Parking Area for this two mile adventure.

### Sunday March 10th 2:00 pm

Stories in the Snow - Discover the world of small mammals. Learn about their natural history and how to identify tracks. Become a detective and see what tales they may tell! Meet at the temporary HQ office located on Cty Hwy 26 just past the visitor center.

### Thursday April 25 8:30-1:00

Earth Day, Work Day! Come out for a day to spruce up the refuge and complete some projects. Wear clothes you can get dirty, bring work gloves, and a spring smile! Lunch will be provided. Meet at the refuge shop area. Please RSVP to Janice\_Bengtson@fws.gov

\*Watch for news on celebrating Tamarac's 75th Anniversary this year.

\*Mark your calendars for the Detroit Lakes Festival of Birds.

### Sunday February 10 2:00 pm

Family Ski Trek - You'll leisurely glide along with stops to admire the fascinating world of winter wildlife. Grab your skis, dress in layers and head to the



Quilt creators Justine Boots and Buggie Anderson. Missing from the photo is Mary Ann Jasken

16th Annual  
Festival  
May 16-19, 2013



f Birds

**NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS  
OF TAMARAC NWR**

Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge  
35704 County Highway 26  
Rochert, MN 56578  
[www.tamaracfriends.org](http://www.tamaracfriends.org)  
Phone: 218-847-2641 Ext. 21

*Friends of Tamarac NWR's mission is to  
facilitate activities and programs that  
interpret, protect and restore the natural  
and cultural resources of Tamarac Wildlife  
Refuge.*

Refuge Website:  
[www.fws.gov/refuge/tamarac](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/tamarac)



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2012 Photo Contest Grand Prize winner, All in a Drop by Anna Donner