



## Supervisor's Minute by Craig Ziolkowski

Just like that, the arrival of countless migratory birds, emergence of amphibians, and the blossoms of spring ephemerals...Spring is here!

First, I would like to introduce the newest addition to the team, Ian. He joins us through a partnership with GOALS, Inc. You can learn more about Ian and GOALS in this issue of the Wetlands Gazette. There are more wonderful things going on across the work unit. Of particular interest, the DNR's Natural Resource Board met on April 12 and approved the donation of 160 acres of land to be included within Mead Wildlife Area. This acreage is located in Portage County, east of Highway O. It includes a series of highly productive wetlands, upland forests, along with agricultural food plots. A heart felt thank you goes out to Mr. and Mrs. Weber for their generous contribution toward conservation and recreation. Although the donation was approved, there are a few more steps to complete before the land is officially transferred. We expect that process to be completed over the summer and for this acreage to be accessible to the public beginning sometime late summer into early fall. We will let you know.

Also, over the winter the UWSP Student Chapter of Ducks Unlimited 'adopted' the Mead Wildlife Area, through the DNR's Adopt-a-Wildlife-Area (AWA) Program. The students have committed to provide over 600 hours of service time. We are excited to have them on board and look forward to sharing reports on their success.

As the ground firms up, the habitat team will continue to drive several dike-repair projects toward completion. In addition to necessary repairs from this winter and spring, wetland projects include the Pool 10 area, Honey Island, Little Birch, and Rice Lake. As you may have seen recently in the news, spring fire season is upon us and the prescribed burn crew has already been activated. As conditions allow, prescribed burning may occur at Mead this spring. We've got a few sites in mind and we're hopeful we can continue to implement this valuable land management tool.

The education team has prepared a stellar line up of programming, in addition to hosting several school groups and preparing for spring bird tours. Celebrate Earth Day at the Mead Science Symposium, April 22, followed by a presentation on Whooping and Sandhill Cranes for this month's Mondays at Mead on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Kicking things off in May, Sam is hosting the second meeting of the Spring Book Club and a very special Stargazing event on May 6 (for more information read the "Education Programming at the Mead" article). May 22 is our final Mondays at Mead featuring WI DNR's Keep Wildlife Wild program. Be sure to check out the Friends of Mead/McMillan Facebook page or Instagram (#meadwildlife) for the most up-to-date information.

Lastly, I would like to take a moment to make a formal request for volunteers. We have lots of opportunities that may fit a variety of schedules. A few key areas we need help include: education assistants, event assistants, greeters, and Friends souvenir sales. Please reach out via email to Sam at [sandra.deroche@wisconsin.gov](mailto:sandra.deroche@wisconsin.gov) or to me at [craig.ziolkowski@wisconsin.gov](mailto:craig.ziolkowski@wisconsin.gov) if you or someone you know is interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities.



### **Friends of Mead-McMillan**

#### **Officers**

- *President—William Voight*
- *VP—Doug Urban*
- *Secretary—Joan Dickrell*
- *Treasurer—Matt Ahles*

#### **Directors:**

- *Tim Collins*
- *Jon Krohn*
- *Michael Lopas*
- *Steve Stageman*
- *Doug Urban*
- *Carrie Ziolkowski*
- *Claire Meany*

#### **DNR Staff:**

- *Craig Ziolkowski, Property Supervisor*
- *Sam De Roche, Mead Educator*

#### **Newsletter Editor**

- *Doug Urban*



## **Educational Programming at the Mead by Sam De Roche**

There isn't a day that goes by that I fail to be delighted by folks enjoying the magic that is the Mead. Often while I am busily working away my thoughts are interrupted by the sound of giggling, shared stories, people coming to the visitor center expressing how much they love the grounds, the hands-on activities, and the people with who they share a love for nature.

Those who have wondered in have noted the changes in the visitor center. We have put a lot of effort to make the space flows nicely as people move around exhibits, look at the souvenir case, and have a friendly conversation with our visitor center associates-who do an excellent job answering folks' questions, I must say.

We are seeing much success as we strive to satisfy the mission and vision for the program which I have written about in a previous newsletter. Despite many people just realizing that we have re-opened after being closed due to the pandemic, many people have become repeat guests. Between January 2<sup>nd</sup> and April 8<sup>th</sup>, 700 came to the Mead and stopped by the visitor center while visiting the grounds. More than 50 of them came to snowshoe, many of them taking us up on our offer to teach first-timers while also providing all the necessary gear. The biggest snowshoe/hike hits since the last newsletter were the full moon guided hikes lead by Ally. The Mead at night is uniquely peaceful and beautiful.

Preschoolers to 10<sup>th</sup> graders, 430 students and chaperones have been through our doors since the beginning of 2023; 11 schools, so far, with 7 more before the end of the school year! I am already scheduling schools for the 2023-24 school year, so if you are interested in bringing your students email me! ([Sandra.DeRoche@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sandra.DeRoche@wisconsin.gov))

We have begun a few new partnerships which we are looking forward to sharing many more Mead memories. The Portage County ADRC came out for a presentation on the History of Snowshoes and enjoyed a hot meal. The UWSP-LIFE group met the Wisconsin Wetland Association representative who gave an engaging presentation before we took them out for an interpretative presentation on wetland management at the Mead. The Wild One's event energized those of us who have green thumbs that were feeling the February slump. Wild One's will be returning for a Weed the Mead event this summer...info will be announced soon! We have also had the pleasure of working with several new scout groups. Great kids (and adult supporters)!

Another new thing began in February...the Mead Bird Photo Contest has been fun. At the beginning of each month, I announce on social media the species of interest for the month. Photographers post their submissions on their page with the hashtag #meadwildlife and #meadphotocontestApr2023 (the abbreviation for the month changes each month). The photo with the highest number of hearts and thumbs-up wins. So far Jenna Clemmerson has won both February and March. Congratulations Jenna! The winning photo for each month is hung in a prominent location in the visitor center.

The Mead Winter Book Club discussed the thought-provoking book "A Life on the Planet" by David Attenborough. They all decided to continue meeting for the Mead Spring Book Club and we would love for you to join us for the remaining gatherings on May 6<sup>th</sup> and June 3<sup>rd</sup> when we discuss Robin Wall Kimmerer's "Braiding Sweetgrass". If you are interested to join us virtually or in-person, send me an email to register. (Heads-up, those that come to the Mead get fresh coffee and snacks...I like that part too.)



Many people have snuggled in on cold, dark Mondays while others have braved the elements to come to the education and visitor center to participate in Mondays at the Mead. January's Stargazing and the Artemis Project with Dr. Zamfir was such a hit that Dr. Zamfir and I planned a very special event to be held on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 8:30pm. He will provide a half-hour presentation on Astronomy and the latest in the optics used to see the stars which will follow with UWSP students helping guests with using these optics themselves to see the stary sky at the Mead. What a great opportunity! There is a cloudy night, alternate date set for the 13<sup>th</sup>, same time and place. Watch our social media and the Friends of the Mead/McMillan web site for announcements.

Learning from Shannon Davis Foust, PhD and Chris Hamerla during the February and March Mondays at Mead were excellent opportunities. It was interesting to apply what we learned about native plants and pollinators to the wetland habit and impact of invasives presentation. As you read in the Manager's Minute, there are two more Mondays at Mead for us to enjoy: April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Janet Raddatz, WI Master Naturalist, will present "Whooping and Sandhill Cranes" and on May 22<sup>nd</sup> Amanda Kamps, WI DNR Wildlife Health Conservation Specialist, will present information on the DNR program Keep Wildlife Wild. Both programs are offered as virtual or in-person attendance, 6:30-7:30pm at the Stanton W. Mead Education and Visitor Center. To attend virtually in April, please register at <http://bit.ly/3Tuhwf2>. For the May virtual opportunity, please register at <http://bit.ly/3geaL2G>.

As I near the end of this update, you must learn more about the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Mead Science Symposium, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9-12:30pm. Those doing research at the Mead will be gathering to share with you the exciting things that are being discovered. UWSP students will have poster presentations in the visitor center while researchers present their findings in the indoor classroom (see the poster in this issue for the presentation schedule). This free event is for all-ages. There will be crafts for the children who need a little creative break...or for the adults who need them to have a break too. After taking in all this interesting information, stay and go for a hike, have a picnic, take some nature photos, or sit in the sun and watch the birds dance.

In between things, I have been contributing to a statewide education initiative responsible for writing a new education strategic plan for WI DNR Wildlife Management. This new strategic plan will allow educators across the state to share resources while increasing collaboration across all departments as well as with organizations outside the DNR. This will allow us to be more effective in providing educational opportunities to Wisconsin citizens and those visiting our wildlife areas. It has been a privilege which I will share with all of you as this unfolds.

If you have not come out in a while, please stop by and say, "Hi" or join us for one of our terrific programs. There is always something to enjoy at the Mead.





**THE 1ST ANNUAL**

# **MEAD SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM**

**EARTH DAY – SATURDAY APRIL 22ND**

9:00AM to 12:30PM

**STANTON W. MEAD EDUCATION AND VISITOR CENTER**

201517 Cty Hwy S  
Milladore WI, 54454

Join us this Earth Day and  
learn something new at the  
1st Annual Mead Science Symposium!

This event will be an opportunity to learn about the science and management that is happening at the Mead from the researchers themselves. From bees, birds, and bucks, there will be presentations and posters that are sure to capture your interest.

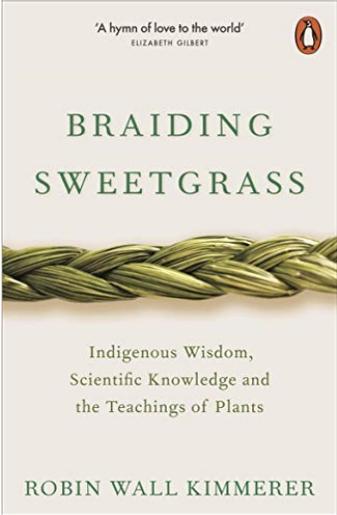


# GOALS, LLC

*The Mead Wildlife Area is excited to announce a working relationship with G.O.A.L.S. LLC! G.O.A.L.S. LLC is a local agency dedicated to working with and assisting people with disabilities in the community. G.O.A.L.S. LLC serves people in Marshfield, Wisconsin Rapids, Stevens Point, Wausau, and surrounding areas with plans for expanding areas of service! The agency assists people with employment and community living services. One of our new team members at Mead is Ian Cody, a participant of G.O.A.L.S. LLC who has joined the team as a temporary groundskeeper. Ian's first few days have been great, and we hope to expand Ian's job duties and give him the most out of this experience whether it remains temporary or turns into a permanent hire! Before coming to Mead, Ian participated in Project Search through ODC and worked with Prevention Genetics as a result of Project Search. Ian then came to work with G.O.A.L.S. LLC to help him find his next career opportunity. Ian has a passion for learning new things and working with nature. We see a bright future for Ian and will continue to work with him and with G.O.A.L.S. LLC to further develop the relationship with the agency, its participants, and the surrounding communities!*

*For more information about G.O.A.L.S. LLC and its services, please contact Brooke Zdun at [BZdun@goalsllc.net](mailto:BZdun@goalsllc.net) or 715-897-7264.*

## Braiding Sweetgrass Mead Book of the Month



The Mead Winter Book Club discussed the thought-provoking book “A Life on the Planet” by David Attenborough. They all decided to continue meeting for the Mead Spring Book Club and we would love for you to join us for the remaining gatherings on May 6<sup>th</sup> and June 3<sup>rd</sup> when we discuss Robin Wall Kimmerer’s “Braiding Sweetgrass”. If you are interested to join us virtually or in-person, send me an email to register. (Heads-up, those that come to the Mead get fresh coffee and snacks.)



# STARGAZING at the MEAD

WITH DR. SEBASTIAN ZAMFIR

Join us for a night among the stars!  
Dr. Sebastian Zamfir, from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, will share a presentation on astronomy followed by a unique stargazing experience using the latest optical technology.

8:30 - 9:00 PM

Presentation and Optics Tutorial

9:00 - 10:00 PM

Stargazing with Hands-On Optics Experience

**MAY 6TH, 2023 8:30 - 10:00 PM**

**THE STANTON W. MEAD EDUCATION AND VISITOR CENTER**

**201517 COUNTY RD. S MILLADORE WI 54454**





## Mead Bird Images by Marguerite Timmerman



American White Pelicans



Blue-winged Teal and friends



Hooded Mergansers



Blue Heron



## Mead Bird Photo of the Month Contest

Both images by Jenna Clemmerson

Northern Cardinal



Pileated Woodpecker



At the beginning of each month, an announcement is made on social media as to the species of interest for the month. Photographers post their submissions on their page with the hashtag #meadwildlife and #meadphotocontestApr2023 (the abbreviation for the month changes each month). The photo with the highest number of hearts and thumbs-up wins.

## Happening at the Mead



Mead volunteers



Field trips



Point of Discovery school



Black Bear Smokey Hill swim



Berkahn flowage otter



Trilliums in the Mead

# SUMMER FUN AT THE MEAD

FRIDAYS 10:00 to 11:15am

JUNE 16th to AUGUST 18th

Stanton W. Mead Education and Visitor Center  
201517 Cty Hwy S Milladore WI 54454

Soak up the sun this summer at the Mead and join us every Friday  
for casual, hands-on, educational programming.

FREE fun for the whole family!

June 16th - Mammals

June 23rd - Forestry Fun

June 30th - Bonehead Bio

July 7th - Survival Strategies

July 14th - Lumberjack Camp: 1853

July 21st - Owl Prowl

July 28th - Art in Nature

August 4th - Animal Tracking

August 11th - Dragonfly Pond Study

August 18th - Habitats: Fill the Bill

No Registration Required. For more information, contact  
Sam DeRoche at [sandra.deroche@wisconsin.gov](mailto:sandra.deroche@wisconsin.gov) or  
Ally Noll at [allyn.noll@wisconsin.gov](mailto:allyn.noll@wisconsin.gov)



Friends of the Mead  
McMillan Wildlife Areas

[www.meadwildlife.org](http://www.meadwildlife.org)



Mead Wildlife Area  
#meadwildlifearea



**Our deepest sympathies to the friends and family of former Friends of the Mead/McMillan board member Sue Hall. Sue along with her husband Kent was a very active FOMM member and was always there to help with many events and projects.**



**Suzanne "Sue" Hall** Suzanne "Sue" Hall passed away on January 7, 2023, with her family at her side. She was born on Flag Day, June 14 in 1939 and raised in Leavenworth, Kan. She graduated from Leavenworth High School, the University of Kansas and Kansas State Teachers' College with her BS and Masters Degrees. She married Kent D. Hall in 1962. They have two children, Sheri (Curt) Johnson of Mt. Pleasant, Wis. and Doug (Kathleen) Hall of Everett, Wash. She also has grandchildren, Jessica and Kaitlin Hall, and Colin, Michael and Kaitlin James of Washington. She is survived by her sister, Marge Black of Arizona and brother, Tom (Deborah) Tinsley of Colorado. Also, in-laws, Mollie (Nelson) Allen, CJ (Ann) Hall, Mark Hall, Morris (Debbie) Hall and 14 wonderful nieces and 16 nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Ruth and Herb Tinsley of Leavenworth; sisters, Ruth Tinsley and Shirley Lynch (Dennie) of Joplin, Mo. and four sisters-in-law of Missouri, grandparents and aunts and uncles of Kansas. Her family was her greatest pleasure in life followed by her love of teaching, especially teaching science. They enjoyed traveling during their breaks to the Caribbean and South America. She also had a passion for cheering on the Green Bay Packers and University of Kansas basketball as well as watching the summer Olympics and playing bridge. She taught Science Methods at the University of Kansas and UW-Stevens Point. She also taught upper grades in Kansas and Stevens Point, mostly at Kennedy and Bannach Elementary Schools. She also taught six years with the "Indian Teacher Corps" on four reservations in Wisconsin, and summers at the University in Akron, Ohio. When she was diagnosed with level 4 colon-liver cancer and found that "God wasn't ready for her yet", she "refocused" and then taught "STEAM" and "College Days for Kids" at UWSP and at the MEAD Wildlife Center. She was a Polymer Ambassador for the American Chemical Society and traveled throughout the USA to National Science Teacher conventions to teachers on how to implement polymers into their curriculums. She and her husband, Kent, were highly involved with track and running and started SPARC (Stevens Point Area Running Club) in 1980 for athletes during the summer months. They were pleased area coaches joined in to help train the over 150 participants. They also liked to cheer on their daughter and son with cross country, track and football during their high school and college years. Sue was also involved in many community activities. She was the President of the Junior Women's Club and co-chairperson to raise money to build the Piffner Park band shell. She was the state Conservation chairperson and was on Gaylord Nelson's first Earth Day Committee. She served on several board of Directors including the YMCA where she was the first female to receive the "Service to Youth" award, Mead Wildlife, Aldo Leopold Audubon, Stevens Point Park Board, BRAW (Bluebird Restoration Association of WI). She was active in the League of Women Voters, Circle of Hope, co-chairperson of Daffodil Days for the American Cancer Society, Girl Scout and Cub scout leader, "Christmas is for Children", PEO, and Trinity Lutheran Church where she served as a Stephen Minister and Lay assistant. Sue helped start the "Living with Cancer Support Group" at St. Michael's in 1998 and was active in supporting cancer survivors.

*Published by Leavenworth Times on Jan. 12, 2023.*

# The 1st Annual

**Free!  
All-Ages Event!**



# Mead Kite Festival

**July 22, 2023 • 11:00am to 3:00pm**

**The Stanton W. Mead Education and Visitor Center  
201517 Cty Hwy S Milladore WI 54454**

Celebrate the wind at the Mead, marvel at the acrobatics and engineering of magical kites, bring your own or make one on-site. Learn from expert flyers, play and relax. The Wisconsin Kites Club's amazing kites will dazzle as you approach the visitor center from Cty Hwy S. It will be a spectacle of the best kind!



## Friends of the Mead/McMillan Calendar of Events

### APRIL

- **April 22 The 1st Annual Mead Science Symposium, Earth Day Event, 9:00am-12:30.**
- **April 24 Mondays at Mead: History of Sandhill and Whooping Cranes, with Janet Raddatz, WI Master Naturalist, 6:30-7:30 pm, virtual presentation and Q&A**
- **April 27&28 ATV Safety, 4:30-8:30 pm**

### MAY

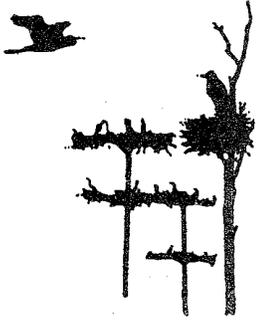
- **May 6 Mead Spring Book Club (pt2), 9-10:30am, in-person or virtual: Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Registration required, send an email to [Sandra.DeRoche@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sandra.DeRoche@wisconsin.gov).**
- **May 6 Stargazing with Dr. Sabastian Zamfir, Ph.D, UWSP, Director of Allen F. Blocher Planetarium and Arthur J. Pejsa Observatory**
  - **8:30-9:00 pm Presentation and Optics Tutorial**
  - **9:00-10:00 pm Stargazing with hands on optics experience**
- **May 18 & 19 Boating Safety, 4:30-8:30 pm**
- **May 20 Hunters Education Online Field Day, 8:00 am-12:00 pm and 12:30-4:30 pm**
- **May 22 Mondays at Mead: Keep Wildlife Wild, with Mandy Kamps, WI DNR, 6:30-7:30 pm, In-person and virtual presentation, Q&A**

### JUNE

- **June 3rd Mead Spring Book Club (pt3), 9-10:30am, in-person or virtual: Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Registration required, send an email to [Sandra.DeRoche@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sandra.DeRoche@wisconsin.gov).**
- **June 10 Hunters Education Online Field Day, 8:00 am-12:00 pm and 12:30-4:30 pm**
- **Natural Resource Foundation FieldTrip-Behind the Scenes at Mead: Wetland Habitat Management**
  - **For more information and to register, visit: [Natural Resource Foundation Field Trip webpage](#)**

### JULY

- **July 8 Friends of the Mead/McMillan members Picnic, 11am-3:00pm**
- **July 22 Mead Kite Festival, 11am-3:00pm. Celebrate the wind at the Mead, marvel at the acrobatics and engineering of magical kites, bring your own or make one on-site. Learn from expert flyers, play and relax. The Wisconsin Kites Club's amazing kites will dazzle as you approach the visitor center from Co. Hwy S-It will be a spectacle of the best kind. This event will be free and fun for all ages.**
- **July 29 Hunters Education Online Field Day, 8:00 am-12:00 pm and 12:30-4:30 pm**



**Friends of  
Mead/McMillan  
Association, Inc.  
201517 Cty Hwy S  
Milladore, WI 54454**

Mailing Address

## **Friends of the Mead/McMillan Members Summer Picnic**

**Saturday, July 8, 2023 11:00 AM-3:00 PM**

- **Guided hikes**
- **Wagon rides**
- **Report from Mead/McMillan Supervisor**
- **Meet the staff**
- **Brats & Hotdogs & refreshments will be served**
- **Potluck-bring a dish to pass**

