



WETLAND'S GAZETTE

Volume 13, Issue 2

August 2017

Wisconsin Summers at the Mead Article by President Jere Smith

Wisconsin summers are a great time of the year. So much sun and so much fun to be had. Be sure to check out the Mead website and Facebook page for upcoming activities at the Mead.

The website is a great place to find out about events, updates and information about the Friends and the DNR. The website now has some additional functionality to make the task for our members very simple and easy. Such as paying membership dues, booking an event, signing up to volunteer or to make a donation. Be sure to use the site. We would also love to hear any feedback about the site so we can continue to improve it even more. Justin Guthman has been an integral part of making this website a success. Thanks Justin!

One main thing that will be changing is the Greeter Program. This program is run by the Friends group and it allows for the center to be open during DNR off hours so people can visit. Like all other support, this program relies on volunteers to make it possible. Lorraine Michalski put many hours into organizing the program. Thank you Lorraine. Connie Milz has stepped up to be the organizer of the program. You need to check the website for the new schedule and ongoing changes. We are in need of volunteers to keep this program going and we would love to hear from you if you are interested.

Get out now and enjoy the Wisconsin summer. It flies by!

All The Best,

Jere

Click the link to access the [Mead Wildlife Area Facebook Page](#) or search "Friends of Mead & McMillan Wildlife Area" on Facebook.

Access the Friend of Mead/McMillan website at: www.meadwildlife.org

Friends of the Mead/McMillan

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- *Joan Dickrell*
- *Marlene Furo*
- *Lorraine Michalski*
- *Connie Milz*
- *Eileen Riehle*
- *Arne Ruha*
- *Dick Shepherd*
- *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*



From the Field

Article by Property Supervisor-Brian Peters

The unusually wet spring and summer that we have been experiencing has hampered our efforts for flowage water level management. We have experienced multiple occasions where the Little Eau Pleine River flowed over its banks and into adjacent impoundments at both Mead and McMillan wildlife areas. When this happens we are unable to control water levels in those impoundments until the river recedes to its normal level. The wet weather also hampers our ability to work on dike repair needs. We continue to fall behind in keeping up with dike damage repair. A portion of the Mead bike trail remains closed to bikes due to the poor condition of the Berkahn flowage dike along the river.

The prairie chicken counts this spring showed that the Mead population remains consistent with numbers since 2011. These numbers remain below the threshold needed to maintain the population for the long-term. An updated prairie chicken management plan for the entire Wisconsin population is being developed by a team of DNR biologists and researchers. This plan will analyze the current situation and recommend realistic options for the future.

Several prescribed burns were completed this spring and early summer in primarily upland grass habitat. The burns were mostly successful in setting back the growth and trees on the grassland areas. Other management techniques are also used to maintain the grassland habitat, including herbicide treatment of brush and trees, and some cutting and mowing in areas where that option exists.

A final plan for the DNR realignment of positions and workload will be announced soon. There is still uncertainty as to how heavy equipment needs will be met on the large state properties such as Mead.

Fall Family Festival

Article by Sue Hall

“The Fall Family Festival” will be held on Sunday, September 17th, and we would like to invite your family and friends to come to celebrate with us at the Mead Wildlife Area. Activities will include a raptor program at 1:00, a Wildflower Walk at noon and we will be having a variety of craft and nature activities from 11-1. Students from Dr. Perry Cook’s Science Methods classes will help with the varied “hands on” craft activities prior to the Raptor show. Participants can also explore the nature trails, the boardwalk, observation decks and “Green Energy” Visitors’ Center.

The live bird program will feature the Raptor Education Center from Antigo. Snacks will be provided and picnic tables are available if you want to bring a sack lunch.

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



**SUPPORT EDUCATION AND WILDLIFE MANGEMENT AT
MEAD and McMILLAN
Article by Lorraine Michalski**

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.

Please share this with family and friends to join the 125 members of the Association by becoming a member at one of the levels listed below.

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 ____ New Member ____ Gift New Member ____

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

Or you may join or renew online at www.meadwildlife.org This website is also supported by members.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____
If this is a gift, please also provide contact information of gift giver.

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



July Story Time

Article and Photos by Brandi Tempel

Our Thursday, July 6th, Story Time was “A Log’s Life.” We had sixteen children searching under logs for creatures and plants of Nature’s finest. The children were able to place their treasures in their own recycled logs to take home. Everyone snacked on Ants-on-a-Log while they enjoyed the “Rotting Logs” puppet show presented by the children themselves.

On week two, thirty-three people enjoyed the Mead property as the wagon took them to view the beaver lodge below the dike. We didn’t see the beaver, but did view his home and also saw a deer and fawn on the way. The children enjoyed a game called Castles & Beavers when they returned. The beaver paper bag puppets were great fun to make and then were taken home by the children.



With week three and four up and coming, we will be meeting the porcupine and planting wildflowers in various recycled containers and other fun activities to go along with those topics.

The children and adults have enjoyed Story Time and the great weather so far. Two more weeks to go enjoying the Mead Wildlife Area.



Winged Wonders Event

Article by Marlene Furo Photos by Brandi Templ

How much honey does one bee produce? How far does a bee travel searching for flowers to pollinate? What is “pure honey”? How can you tell if the honey you bought that is labeled pure is really “pure honey”?

Is “Organic Honey” really pesticide free? Bees can travel as far as six miles. Are all the fields within that area not sprayed with some pesticide?

What color flowers do bees, butterflies and moths prefer?

Why is it difficult to keep bees alive over winter here in Wisconsin? How long do bees live? Does the Queen Bee live longer than the workers? If you attended the “Winged Wonders” event held at the Mead Education Center on Sunday, June 24th, these questions and many others were answered by Michelle Moore, owner of Oasis Bee Company, Plainfield.

When bees pollinate different plants does that result in different tasting and colored honey? Yes, it does. Honey made by pollinating mostly clover has a red tint to it while honey made by pollinating buckwheat is very dark colored. Honey from cranberry blossoms is red.



Honey also has many health benefits.

Dayton Kauth from “Moonlight Apiaries” demonstrated extracting honey from his observation hives. Everyone got a chance to see live bees in a hive and to taste the freshly extracted honey.

One lucky person won a prize for guessing the number of honeycombs in a jar. Two people were winners of the baskets that were raffled off. Crafts were enjoyed by the children who attended.



What an interesting and educational day! Thanks to all the volunteers and the staff members who helped.



Greeters

Article by Connie Milz

Lorraine Michalski has been setting up volunteers for the Mead to act as Greeters. This was to help open the building on Saturdays and Sundays since 2005 when it was built. She had asked to step away from that duty and I am going to try to take her place. I am NO Lorraine, but then who is? She has done a wonderful job to promote the center. Because I am new at this, I am going to start SLOW, which means we are going to try to open every first Saturday of the month. I have made the commitment to cover those Saturdays starting August 5, 2017. I will be a greeter on the first Saturday of every month that I don't have a conflict. Joan Dickrell will be here September 2nd, 2017, because true-to-form when I make a commitment, I usually run into a conflict. On that Saturday, I am heading to Michigan to walk the Mackinac Bridge on Labor Day for the eighth time with my sister who lives in that state. Lorraine gave me a list of individuals that have opened the building and been the greeters in the past and I will be contacting them to fill in other Saturdays. Once we have a Greeter that plans to open the center I will have Lorraine post it on Facebook.

If you have never had the opportunity to work as a greeter please consider visiting the center when we are here and see what we do. It is a wonderful chance to meet people from all over the state that visit the facility. Contact me with questions: I don't have all the answers, but I can get them for you.

Phone 715-457-2690 or e-mail connie@tznet.com.

Called to *Serve*

WELCOME



2017—What's happening Fall Events

September

Sunday (9/17/17)

11:00am—2:00pm
Fall Family Festival
Free Public Event



- ⇒ Noon Wildflower & Butterfly Walk (with Pam Resech)
- ⇒ 1:00pm REGI Raptor Show
- ⇒ Ongoing Animal & Nature Crafts

Thursday (9/21/17)

7:00pm—10:00pm
A Star Gazing Party
Free Public Event



- ◆ Hosted by the "Stars R Us" group from Wausau
- ◆ Join us for a fun evening of looking at the fall night sky. Telescopes will be provided. Bring your own binoculars too.

October

Saturday (10/21/17)

5:30pm—8:00pm
Spooktacular & Food Drive

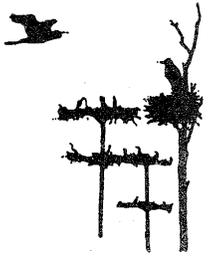


Join us for our 7th Annual non-scary Family fun night Halloween event:

- ◇ Play games
- ◇ craft a cookie
- ◇ warm-up by the campfire

Admission is FREE with a non-perishable food item or \$2.00 per person.





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



Spooktacular

"Smokey Bear & Critter Skits"

Mark Your Calendar to Join us for our 7th Annual
non-scary family fun night **Halloween** event!



Activities Include:

Decorate a pumpkin or cookie
Play games for prizes & candy
New Critter Skits; Outside

Create a Halloween Craft
Enjoy Halloween Refreshments
Warm-up by the campfire with Smokey Bear

Date: Saturday October 21, 2017

Time: 5:30pm-8:00pm (Please Note: New Time!)**

Admission is **Free** with a non-perishable food item, or \$2.00 per person

Sponsored by the Friends of the Mead/McMillan and the FWS Park Grant

For More Information: Visit our website: www.meadwildlife.org

Contact: Pam Resech at 715-457-6771 ext. 2