

# MacKenzie Sugar Bush Gazette

President: Steve Siegler V.  
President: Ruth Ann Lee  
Secretary: Deb W-Neurohr  
Treasurer: Don Jackson

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

-- by Steve Siegler

A lot of exciting things are happening at MacKenzie. I guess you can say that most anytime, but maybe now more than ever.

As you may have heard, we have embarked on a major project to improve the Wildlife enclosures. We have gotten architecture designs and have started the fundraising part of this exciting project. More to come about this on our website and Facebook page. March brought in the Maple program with its up and down

weather. The results were a good year after a slow start. Maple fest was a hit with wonderful weather and record crowds. MOHEE was in May and was another great event (despite some rough weather). Our tents did not do fare too well though.

As we continue through the summer, we have an Archery Event coming up July 22nd and our Volunteer Picnic Aug. 20. Don't forget the Fall Fest on Oct 7th, mark your calendars! I hope all have a safe and fun summer.



**Friends of MacKenzie Center**

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**Poynette, WI 53955**

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## **A Big Thank You to the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation**

Once again, the Friends have received a very generous donation from the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. One of the main ways we use these funds is for our scholarship program. Thanks, WWF, for helping make it more affordable for school groups and other organizations interested in the environment and outdoor activities to come to the MacKenzie Center!



## **3-D Archery Competition – by Dan Martinson**

On **July 22, 2017** along with support from archery vendors, local businesses and NASP, the Friends of MacKenzie will be hosting a 3-D Archery Competition and Youth Event. The competition runs from 9am-4pm with registration open from 8am-1pm. There will be 7 Classes for the competition: Youth Female 12 and under, Youth Male 12 and under, Youth Female 13-16, Youth Male 13-16, Adult Bowhunter Female, Adult Bowhunter Male and an Open Competition Class. There will prizes or trophies for each class. Youth events will take place from 10am-1pm on the day of the competition. In addition there will be an area where kids or adults will be paired one-on-one with an instructor who will show them how to shoot and other archery techniques. There will be bows for kids to use, a craft area, a shed hunt, and aerial archery for kids and adults to participate in. For more information or to register, go to [www.friendsofmackenzie.org/event/3d-archery-competition](http://www.friendsofmackenzie.org/event/3d-archery-competition). Hope to see you there!

## Fall Festival – by Deb Wearne-Neurohr

Fall Festival will be held this year on **Oct. 7, 2017** from 10 am – 3 pm. This family friendly event gives participants a chance to try some of the many activities available at MacKenzie including archery, air guns, compass skills and geocaching, wildlife tours, fire building, hiking, and studying the plant and critter life in our pond. There will also be seasonal activities — pumpkin painting, a hay wagon rides, gunny sack races, face painting, scarecrow making, and more! Entertainment by local groups. It takes many volunteers to make this event a success. If you can help out or want more information contact [friendsofmackenzie@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofmackenzie@gmail.com) or call the MacKenzie Center 608-635-8105.



### Maple Festival 2016 Donors

**Blue Star Dairy**  
**Poynette Iron Works**  
**Judy Fish Associates**  
**Don's Marine**  
**The O'Brion Agency**  
**The Rio Shopper**  
**Lake Wisconsin Lions Club**  
**Kohlwey's Plumbing, Heating, AC**  
**Poynette Veterinary Service**  
**Shaklee Products**  
**United Community Bank**  
**Poynette Auto Body**  
**Mr. John Frank**  
**Stepping Stone Learning Center**  
**Boardman and Clark, LLC**  
**High Country Electric**  
**TNT Sharpening**  
**Ness Auto Sales**  
**Paint Tree Farm**  
**Bleich Heating and Air Conditioning**  
**Lodi Veterinary Care**  
**Poynette True Value Hardware**  
**Elsing Oil**  
**Shepherd's Meadows Golf Course**



Fall Festival

## The Friends Wildlife Project - by Don Lucke

The Wildlife Project's concept design proposal we talked about in the last issue of the *Sugar Bush Gazette* has been received with great enthusiasm. Designs for Phase one (wolf, fox and coyote habitat and enclosure) are well underway. We expect to have the proposal drawings later this month with construction drawings to follow in 2018. The Wildlife Committee and volunteers are fully engaged developing fundraising plans and promotional materials. We have requested pledges from an initial core group of individuals, currently from all of The Friends Board members, to demonstrate a substantial commitment to the project as we prepare to broaden solicitations to potential larger donors. We will of course need your help, not only by your generosity but to spread the word. This project will - in so many ways - enhance the Center's wildlife educational opportunities for our next generation of children. Watch for more information about upcoming events this fall or become more engaged NOW by calling [\(920\) 992-3999](tel:9209923999)... See what we can do!



## **MacKenzie Center Property Manager Introduction -By Samantha Keuffler**

Friends of MacKenzie,

Thank you for affording me this opportunity to introduce myself to all of you. As many of you know, on May 15, 2017, I assumed the role of the MacKenzie Center Property Manager as Interim Director, Ryder Will returned to his position at Mirror Lake and Rocky Arbor State Parks. I want to extend a big thank you to Ryder for his dedication to the property. Moving forward, I could not be more eager to continue working in partnership with the Friends of MacKenzie to evolve the property with consideration for the future and generations to follow.

A native of Illinois, I came to Wisconsin in 2011 pursuing a career in natural resources after spending my childhood summers at my grandparents' cabin in Sawyer County. In 2009, I obtained a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Conservation and Management from Missouri State University. And I am anticipating completion of a Master of Science in Natural Resources Leadership and Administration with an emphasis in Environmental Education from University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point in August.

Following completion of my undergraduate degree, I began my career seeking a property management position with The Nature Conservancy. For four years, I traveled the country with the TNC conducting property management activities, prairie restoration projects and building relationships with volunteer groups. In 2011, I began my career with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources! I owe my success within DNR to the various limited term positions I have held. My first positions with DNR were in customer service and fisheries before completing the Natural Resources Law Enforcement Academy in 2013 and moving forward as a Conservation Warden and a permanent Natural Resources Officer. I believe my role at MacKenzie to be an exceptional conglomeration of my education, experiences and interests and I am very excited for this new opportunity.

My husband, Andrew, is a ten-year veteran of the United States Air Force and currently serves in the Wisconsin Air National Guard at the 128<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing as a KC-135 Co-Pilot. Together, with our son, Hunter and Viszla, Piper, our family enjoys traveling, flying, sporting events and a variety of outdoor recreational activities. We look forward to calling Poynette and MacKenzie home!

I am grateful for all of the volunteers and donors that continue to contribute to the MacKenzie Center and the exceptional team of staff that, without hesitation, go above and beyond their roles each and every day. It is this level of dedication and heart that does, and will continue to, drive the MacKenzie Center to success.

Thank you for welcoming me to the MacKenzie Family.



### **Volunteer Picnic, August 20, 2017**

Each year we meet at the picnic shelter at the MacKenzie Center to thank everyone who helps to make this such a great place. This year's picnic will be Sunday, August 20. We'll gather at noon for conversation and refreshments. Lunch begins at 12:30. The Friends will provide brats, burgers, chicken, beverages, plates and eating utensils. Please bring a dish to pass, based on your last name: A-G salad, H-M appetizers, N-Z dessert. Please RSVP to Sue Brockel (608-846-4145 or [rbrockel@centurytel.net](mailto:rbrockel@centurytel.net)) by August 14 to make planning easier. This is a great time to come together and have fun as we celebrate all the hard work the staff and volunteers do throughout the year!

## Maintenance Committee

-By Don Lucke

We had a great turn out of nearly 30 volunteers and staff in April to unload and install the new bunk beds - what an improvement! Later in April we provide materials and help with Center volunteers for projects on Earth Day. Most of our support was repairing a dozen picnic tables and help with staining. As in past years we provided support at MOHEE with serving coffee and catered lunch for the volunteers and water for the kids. Thanks to 70 mph winds our gift sales tents were launched overnight into some nearby trees (along with some MOHEE tents). Sue was back in business by 10:00am - 2 new tents are on order. The remaining four work days and 147 hours focused on gathering and splitting hard wood for next year's Maple season. Thanks to all volunteers and watch your emails for upcoming work days.



## 2017 Friends of MacKenzie Calendar

<b>Friends Board Meetings</b>	<b>Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12, Jan. 9, 9 am</b>
<b>3-D Archery Competition</b>	<b>July 22, 9 am – 4 pm (registration 8 am – 1 pm)</b>
<b>Story Time with Animals</b>	<b>July 26, 10 – 11:30 am</b>
<b>An Evening with Wildlife</b>	<b>Aug. 9, 5:30 – 7:30 pm</b>
<b>Volunteer Picnic</b>	<b>Aug. 20, noon</b>
<b>Movie Night at MacKenzie</b>	<b>Aug 30, 8 pm</b>
<b>Fall Festival</b>	<b>Oct. 7, 10 am – 3 pm</b>
<b>Work days</b>	<b>TBA (Contact Don Lucke at <a href="mailto:heartshare@centurytel.net">heartshare@centurytel.net</a> if interested)</b>
<b>Annual Meeting</b>	<b>Jan. 18, 4:45 pm – 7:30 pm</b>

*For more information about any of these events go to [www.friendsofmackenzie.org](http://www.friendsofmackenzie.org)*

## July Gift Shop Report – by Sue Brockel

This spring we were busy with school groups and MOHEE. MOHEE turned into a real adventure when the tents blew away during a terrible storm. Most of our merchandise was in containers and was saved. A few sweatshirts and t-shirts got wet, but the dryer saved them. The KODA (Kids of Deaf Adults) groups will be in the lodge this summer so we will open the gift shop for each of the three groups attending camp. The gift shop will also be open during the archery event on July 22. New pocket guides on WI Trees, WI Wildflowers, and WI Wildlife are now available at the shop.

## MacKenzie Center Property Manager Highlights – by Samantha Keuffler

**Facilities and Grounds** -- Relentless spring rain has challenged the Facilities and Grounds Team bringing everything from soggy conditions to downed trees and littered debris to flourishing vegetation. As a result, the Team has been diligently focused on maintaining the grounds to an exceptional standard; much work has been put into clearing the trail system and pathways, as well as invasive species control and tree maintenance. The dorms saw an upgrade with new bunks, flooring and air conditioning units this spring and the picnic area picnic tables received new paint on Earth Day.

Thank you to the Facilities and Grounds Team for their efforts and dedication to maintaining this property! And a big thank you to the volunteers who assisted with cutting and splitting wood during this spring's volunteer work days!

**Wildlife** -- Exciting work continues on the landscaping, enclosure improvements and tree removal throughout the wildlife exhibit. The facilities and grounds in this area are becoming increasingly appealing and safe for MacKenzie Center visitors and more comfortable for our resident wildlife! Thank you to the Facilities and Grounds Team for their continued assistance in enhancing this important component of the MacKenzie Center.

The Wildlife Team has been dedicated to developing enrichment activities for each of our resident wildlife. The Team would like to thank all those who donated, and continue to donate, items for enrichment purposes. These donations have greatly advanced our ability to provide this exceptional level of care for our wildlife.

We are elated to announce the MacKenzie Center's partnership with the University of Wisconsin-Madison, School of Veterinary Medicine for clinical services and diagnostic procedures. This collaboration will advance the care our resident wildlife receives. We look forward to increasing our knowledge of the overall health of, and best care options for, our wildlife.

Thank you to the Wildlife Team for continuing to improve the facilities and grounds of our wildlife exhibit and for striving to advance the care our resident wildlife receives!

**Education** -- Outdoor education continues to be the heart of the MacKenzie Center! Since March, the Education Team has welcomed over 1,700 students to the property from across Wisconsin including overnight, weekend and day field trips! The MacKenzie Center also hosted 1,100 students for Maple Program and 2,700 students for MOHEE, the Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo. Additionally, KODA, Kids of Deaf Adults, arrived mid-June and will remain in residence for 6 weeks utilizing the property and our educational programming. Welcome KODA!

With summer upon us, the Education Team is busy preparing for upcoming programs including Story Time with Animals, An Afternoon with Wildlife, an Evening with Wildlife, Summer Day Camp and Movie Night at MacKenzie. The first Story Time with Animals this year was a great success hosting over 64 young children and over 40 adults! Help us to spread the word of our exciting summer programming and exceptional Education Team!

The Education Team has been working in close conjunction with the Wildlife Team to develop Wisconsin wildlife habitat and ecosystem focused interpretation for future implementation in the wildlife exhibit. It is our hope to carry the theme developed for the wildlife exhibit interpretation throughout the property to provide much needed interpretation in other designated use areas around the property. Implementing successful interpretative displays affords the MacKenzie Center the opportunity to provide another avenue of excellent outdoor education for students and visitors!

Thank you to the Education Team for continuing to promote and enhance MacKenzie's outdoor education and skills programming!

Welcome our **summer interns**: Alyssa, Ashley, Ashlynn, Madison, Tori, and Matt!