



the Sharp Tale

The newsletter of the Friends of Crex, Inc.
102 E. Crex Ave. Grantsburg, WI 54840
715-463-CREX (2739)
information@crexmeadows.org
Web site: www.crexmeadows.org

Fall 2014

Residents, Biologists, and BEARS – OH MY!

By Paul Napierala, Summer Intern

Early during my wildlife internship at Crex, I had my first experience with a Grantsburg black bear. This large boar walked within forty yards of my cabin; he acted like he owned the place. Attempting to scare this unwanted visitor off of Crex property proved to be hopeless; clapping and yelling got the boar's attention but only triggered him to put on a show of dominance. Standing tall on his hind legs, he scratched his back on a small red pine and proceeded to claw some telephone poles lying in the yard. As he sauntered away, he stopped and looked back with an icy stare. It seemed as if he were trying to say, "I'm the boss of these part; you need to find the door and leave."

That initial encounter opened my eyes to the black bear issue that Crex wildlife biologists and Grantsburg residents are facing. It was clear to me that the rising bear population around Grantsburg is creating concern for human/bear conflicts. It was because of these conflicts that I saw an opportunity to help wildlife biologists, bear hunters, and residents better understand and manage the black bear population around Grantsburg. My black bear research project covered important components of wildlife management: field research and human dimensions in wildlife.

Field research for my project focused on finding the travel corridors that bears are using to get into town. Bob Hanson (Crex Wildlife Biologist) assisted me in developing the plan to place strike bait transects on the possible corridors. Before I could move forward with my proposed research, I needed to get the green light from the Village of Grantsburg. Due to active nuisance bear trapping occurring in the village throughout the summer, I was required



Black bear boar walking through Crex property ~photo by Paul Napierala

to put my project on the back burner until the problem bears had been captured. After I communicated with members of the Village Board, they soon realized that my research findings would greatly benefit Grantsburg black bear management strategies, and with their consent my project was off and running!

Fortunately for me, Bruce Kohn (Retired Wildlife Biologist) completed a black bear population study in 1985 that used strike bait transects. With some small modifications to Kohn's study I was able to implement the use of strike baits in my bear study. Strike baits are made up of one pound of fat that is placed in two mesh bags and securely wired to a tree. A strike bait transect consist of strike baits spaced evenly apart and in a straight line. Only a bear walking in close proximity to the strike bait would be able to find and eat it. This ensured my study would not be compromised by drawing in bears that usually do not frequent those areas and corridors. It was easy to distinguish when a bear vs. another type of animal tried to get the fat because deep claw marks in the bark would be noted, as well as broken branches, broken wire, and occasional physical tracks.

I placed strike bait transects in four wooded areas on the outskirts of town. One transect was located north of East Crex Avenue, another was located north of West Crex Avenue, another placed by the Riverside Cemetery, and the final transect was by the Wood River on the southwest side of town. Baits were left out for a seven day period. After collecting data from the four transects, I was able to detect two distinct travel corridors:



North Fork Stream Shocking ~photo by Eric VanNatta

Bear Research continued on page 5 ...

President's Corner

by Annette Mosley

The five senses have been richly rewarded this year as one meanders around GLG properties. I have just been amazed to see the glistening high water levels and brilliant greens emerging from spring burn areas. Hearing the great variety of bird song is always refreshing, and this year we have had the added treat of rare species such as a male Garganey duck and a Chestnut-collared longspur. Because of plentiful rain, this has been an exceptional year for wildflowers. I have been thrilled to savor the delicate fragrance of hyssop, dog bane and a variety of roses. There has been the opportunity to taste delicious berries that have been in abundance this summer. Finally, picking up and feeling a beautiful agate warmed by the sun while walking a road on the properties completes the whole sensory experience.

With fall just around the corner I wanted to mention Babat, a little brown bat my family and I raised this time of year twenty-four years ago when I was a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. What a gentle, soft and intelligent little creature! We thoroughly enjoyed watching Babat lick its lips side to side after drinking water from an eye dropper and devouring insects. I had the unique experience of watching Babat learn to fly one evening from its roost in the dark living room to

the lit bedroom where I was reading. Repeatedly this little one would fly around the room and land on the bed. It was just incredible! This was also the perfect time to educate friends about these much misunderstood critters.

The Friends of Crex, in conjunction with the DNR, continues to purchase more property and has recently acquired a piece that is exceptional. Having a designated fund for land acquisition has made the acquisition process move along more smoothly. The Multipurpose Building project also continues to gain momentum. This will replace the aging "mess hall" which will one day be retired to the status of bunkhouse and will then have a whole new lease on life!

Annette



Babat on a gourd ~ photo by Annette Mosley

The Friends of Crex, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation organized for the sole charitable purpose of supporting, assisting, and promoting the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources with wildlife education and management activities at the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area and the other wildlife properties comprising Glacial Lake Grantsburg (GLG) Wildlife Management Complex in Burnett County, Wisconsin.

WHY DOES MY ADDRESS LABEL SAY "or current resident?". In order to save money on postage costs, The US Postal Service requires us to add this line to all of our mailings. We know that you still live there!

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE! A BALLOT IS ENCLOSED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER FOR THE UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETING: JEAN MARIE WADDELL'S POSITION IS UP FOR RE-ELECTION AND SHE IS RUNNING FOR HER SECOND THREE-YEAR TERM ON THE FRIENDS OF CREX BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Friends of Crex Board of Directors

President: Annette Mosley, Grantsburg, WI
Treasurer: Alan Roelfs, Grantsburg, WI
Secretary: Dick Sandve, Minneapolis, MN
Board Members: Jim Evrard, Grantsburg, WI
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Why We Do That: Land Acquisition Fund Protects Three New Parcels

by Steve Hoffman, Wildlife Biologist

Do blank spots on a map catch your attention? If so you may have noticed a large blank spot on the Amsterdam Sloughs Wildlife Area map at the end of Bruss Road. This 320 acre parcel, a privately owned property within the Amsterdam Sloughs Wildlife Area boundary, is one of the most recent, and largest, purchases made by the Friends of Crex Land Acquisition Committee. The Department of Natural Resources had made an unsuccessful offer on this parcel about one year ago. The landowners, Michael (Mick) and Kathleen Bruss, later approached a member of the FOC Land Acquisition Committee with an offer he would accept. Since the Department was not able to meet this offer, the Land Acquisition Fund was the most effective source for purchasing this property. This is exactly the type of transaction for which the Fund was created.

Since the Land Acquisition Fund did not contain enough money to complete this transaction, a land contract was set up with the landowner with payments scheduled over 17 years. The plan is to ultimately sell the land to the DNR. A new appraisal of the land has already been contracted by the Department, so an offer to purchase can be made. If for some reason the Department is not able to purchase the land from FOC, the land contract, as written, will allow FOC to pay off the land over time.

Soon after this large purchase was completed, local landowners, Ken and Sandy Lee, contacted a

member of the FOC Land Acquisition Committee to ask if there was interest in purchasing a ten acre parcel. This land adjoins the 80-acre Larson Property that was purchased last year by FOC and donated to the DNR. The Lee parcel was already on the Department's land acquisition priority list, but before an appraisal could be done the landowner received a private offer to purchase the property. Since Mr. Lee had offered the property to FOC earlier, he gave FOC the right of first refusal. The decision was made by the FOC Land Acquisition Committee to purchase this property as well. Once again, this is a purchase that could not have been made by the Department given the short time frame involved.

Adding the Bruss parcel and the Lee parcel to the seven acre Moan parcel that was purchased earlier this spring brings the total land purchased by FOC so far this year to 337 acres. This is a fantastic accomplishment! As members of FOC who have supported the land acquisition program you should be proud of your efforts. You have preserved some unique parcels of land for future generations to enjoy. If you are interested in getting out and seeing any of these parcels, please contact us for information on where to find them. Once you look at these lands it is easy to see why we did this! Thank you for your past and future support. You can use the membership/donation form on page 7 of this newsletter to make a donation to the Land Acquisition Fund.



2014 Crex Meadows Nature Photography Contest Winner Best In Show: "Faceoff!" By LouAnn Wheeler, Danbury, WI, catches a mink and a large bull snake preparing for battle. LouAnn reports that the mink gave up after a fierce battle that included biting and spraying it's scent onto the snake. See page 6 for more photos from this series.

Trackin' on Two-Tracks

by Eric VanNatta

Following the tail end of the spring waterfowl migration, I arrived here at Crex in the third week of May. During the 3½-hour drive from my hometown of Wausau to Grantsburg, I really did not know what to expect for my summer. Right off the bat Paul Napierala, my counterpart also from UW-Stevens Point, and I began our work as DNR-Wildlife Interns walking miles of dikes throughout Crex and Fish Lake Wildlife Area. As an annual task dikes must be walked to check for winter and spring damage and to repair any beaver/muskrat bank dens. It wasn't even two weeks into the job when my farmer's tan began to set in nicely. Other jobs that we were assigned were to remove beaver dams from structures, lead CEP-Camp work crews into out-of-control buckthorn forests, assist Alan Roelfs (Friends of Crex Volunteer) with his pesky gophers, and assist DNR personnel with the summer's goose and duck banding-also known as swamp rodeos. Part of my great Crex experience was the variety of tasks to be done, and I was never let down.

Duck Banding at Fish Lake Wildlife Area in late July. Photo taken by Katie Ayello.

In early June, I had the unique opportunity to work with a local USDA Wildlife Trapper, who was attempting to catch a wolf on Crex property and to fit it with a radio collar. It didn't take long for me to get interested in conducting a project revolving around a collared wolf. Since there are many questions that can be answered about individual wolves as well as wolf packs by following a collared wolf, I had the idea of using radio-telemetry to follow a wolf around for the summer.

Alas, efforts here at Crex were not successful due to the abundance of Black Bears in the area where the trap-line (a set of traps in an area where fresh wolf tracks are present) was set. Even though there was plenty of fresh wolf sign around, bears always seemed to have gotten to the traps first. We caught two of the bears, and others had set off countless other traps

Fortunately for me, I wasn't out of luck yet. In



Duck Banding at Fish Lake Wildlife Area in late July. ~Photo by Katie Ayello

early May a yearling male wolf, named W858, had been collared south of Fish Lake near the Sterling Barrens. After many nights of driving dozens of miles on dirt roads and two-track trails, I finally located the collared wolf. The sound of high-pitched beeps coming out of a handheld radio receiver never sounded so good!

Over the course of the next seven weeks I spent over forty hours of tracking time, covering about every single road and two-track south of Fish Lake. I tried to get locations of the wolf at all hours of the day, which meant several nights in the woods at 3:00 a.m. with a clunky antenna, GPS and compass (and supporting healthy populations of mosquitos!).

After all of my locations from W858 had been gathered, I began to see some interesting results. The pack W858 was in, which was presumed to be the Sterling Wolf Pack, spent many weeks much farther north, where there has historically been a different pack. Also, there seemed to be little to no movement of the pack during daylight hours. I may have found the answer to this behavior when I got pups to respond to me when I tried howling one night after



Possible W858 tracks during an early sunny morning south of Fish Lake. Three sets of wolf tracks were on top of my truck tracks from the night before. ~photo by Eric VanNatta.

dark. If a pack has pups, there is usually limited movement during the day to protect pups from danger. I also documented all habitat use, tracks, kill sites, responses to howling, and bear hunters running dogs that I encountered while out and about tracking “858”.

As my summer here at Crex comes to a close and my 3½-hour car ride back home approaches, I am thrilled to have been able to work here. The projects I have been involved with are only topped by the knowledge and professionalism of people with whom who I have had the pleasure to work with. I plan to return to Crex this winter to continue tracking wolves while putting a few miles on my snowshoes!



Coming in 2015! Crex Meadows Wildlife Area is excited to be adding a new 5K Walk/Run event to our Annual Fall Wildlife Festival that occurs the first weekend in October. The route will be along roads that pass Crex flowages for a nature experience unlike any other 5K in the area. Proceeds from the first event will be donated to the Mess Hall project.

If you are interested in participating on the planning committee for this new and exciting fundraising event, please contact Kristi Pupak, Wildlife Conservation Educator, at 715-463-2739 or via email

Kristina.pupak@wisconsin.gov. The committee will begin meeting in January 2015.

More details to come!

... *Bear Research continued from p.1*

the wooded land on west side of the Wood River located by West Olson Drive and the wooded land north of West Crex Avenue. These were the only transects that had any strike baits hit. With the aid of trail cameras, I was able to see how many bears were using the known corridors. After a short camera monitoring period, I was able to identify one bear using the Wood River corridor and two different bears using the West Crex corridor. My travel corridor findings will hopefully aid in future development of a Grantsburg black bear management plan.

To gather more information regarding resident’s attitudes and opinions toward black bears, I decided to administer a questionnaire. Through communication with Jordan Petchenik (Resource Sociologist-WDNR), my questionnaire was reviewed and approved by the WDNR. I formulated questions to give the citizens of Grantsburg a chance to voice their opinions and concerns. After randomly selecting residents, I hit the streets and started knocking on doors. I gave participants the option to either complete the questionnaire in-person or to mail it to the Crex Visitor Center. My goal was to gather 50 completed questionnaires, and amazingly I have thus far received 58! Due to questionnaires continuing to arrive, my results cannot yet be fully analyzed at this time – the final results of my black bear research project will be available to the public at the Crex Visitor Center by September 30th, 2014.

Overall, this summer has been a blast! If I had to do this project again, I would allocate more of my time to conducting the questionnaires because I learned so much about life by just getting to know a few Grantsburg citizens.



Black bear in travel corridor ~photo by Paul Napierala

Volunteering at the Front Desk

by Jean Marie Waddell, FOC Board Member and Front Desk Volunteer

Do you know where the bathrooms are located at the Crex Visitor and Education Center? Have you driven the roads on the Wildlife Area looking for signs of nature--sand hill cranes, beaver, muskrat, butterflies, pasque flowers--whatever is in season? Can you read the map and see where Phantom Lake is located? Do you know how to sweep floors? Replace toilet paper in the bathrooms? Can you turn on a TV? Would you be able to follow directions given by the DNR staff? Do you like to talk to people? Do you know how to look up information in a guide book? Do you have a love of Crex Meadows that you like to share with others?

If you can answer, "Yes!" to most of these questions, then you are qualified to volunteer at the Crex Visitor Center front desk. Or if you answered, "I'm not sure!" you know the correct response when a visitor asks a question for which you do not know an answer. The majority of visitors are folks visiting for the first time who want general information that is easy for even the

novice volunteer to provide.

The rewards for serving at the front desk on a Saturday or Sunday are many. You get to meet people from all over this area as well as other states and even international travelers. You meet expert birders as well as novices. You experience the excitement of a first time visitor who adds Garganey duck and Chestnut-collared longspur to his life list and tells you Crex Meadows is the best location in the nation to visit for viewing birds because it is so accessible.

The Visitor Center is open on weekends from April through October and is staffed entirely by volunteers. Most volunteers find it fun (and helpful) to work in pairs, although some of the more experienced volunteers can handle the six hour shift from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM alone. If you're interested in volunteering, contact Volunteer Coordinator Kim Wheeler at 715-463-2739 or information@crexmeadows.org for training and instructions.



This series of photos by LouAnn Wheeler, Danbury, WI show a mink and a large bull snake fighting. The middle photo shows the mink spraying it's scent on the snake. The mink fought the snake until it noticed the photographer and then gave up.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- ◆ **Fall Wildlife Festival: Saturday, October 4, 9am to 1pm.** We need people to help in the mess hall, to make a pan of bars for the food stand, parking lot attendants, and classroom helpers.
- ◆ **Halloween at Crex: Saturday, November 1, 5-8pm.** Help is needed before, during and after the event, putting pumpkins out on the trail, helping in the classroom, and clearing the trail afterward. We also need pumpkin carving volunteers on Wednesday, October 29th from 6-8pm.
- ◆ **Front Desk:** We need more volunteers to staff the front desk on weekends at the Visitor Center. New volunteers are paired up with veteran volunteers during their first season.

Contact Kim Wheeler if you would like to volunteer for any of these opportunities.

Consider Giving the Gift of Crex



As a member of Friends of Crex, you understand the value of all the benefits of membership:

- 10% discount in the Bog Shoe Gift Shop
- Free access to wildlife viewing and photography blind
- The Friends of Crex newsletter 3 times each year
- Invitations to special events
- Free binocular and snowshoe rental
- The knowledge that you are supporting wildlife management and education programs at Crex**

Now you can share these benefits with your friends and relatives! Simply fill out the form below to purchase a gift membership and we will customize a letter to the recipient stating that you purchased a membership for them and provide more information about Crex Meadows. This would make an excellent gift for birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, and more! AND you can choose whether we send you the annual renewal or send it to the new member.

If the recipient is already a current member of the Friends of Crex, we will extend their membership for the length of time you choose, and will still send a letter to them on your behalf.

Friends of Crex Donation and Membership Renewal Form

MEMBER INFORMATION New Member _____ Renewal _____ Gift Membership _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

(We email rare bird alerts, updates on upcoming events, etc. to those who provide their email addresses. We do not share mail lists with other organizations)

PLEASE SEND ME THE NEWSLETTER AND OTHER NOTICES BY EMAIL

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL	<u>1 Year</u>	<u>2 Year</u>	<u>5 Year</u>
(please Individual:	\$15.00	\$25.00	\$60.00
circle) Family:	\$22.00	\$35.00	\$80.00
*Patron:	\$55.00	\$100.00	\$225.00
*Life: One time charge of	\$350 or \$120/year for 3 years		

***FOR PATRON & NEW LIFE MEMBERS**
 Please send me the following Thank You gift:
 ___ Roadside Wildflowers of Glacial Lakes Grantsburg
 ___ The Crex Meadows video series on DVD

DONATION TO ENDOWMENT FUND: \$ _____

DONATION TO LAND ACQUISITION FUND: \$ _____

DONATION TO MESS HALL FUND: \$ _____

TOTAL DUE (Membership Dues + Donations): \$ _____

IF THIS IS A GIFT MEMBERSHIP, PLEASE INCLUDE THE PURCHASER'S INFORMATION BELOW:

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

___ send me the renewal ___ send the new member the renewal

Double or triple your donation at no extra cost!

Memberships and donations are 100% tax-deductible and may qualify for your employer's matching gifts program. Check with your HR department at work for more information about their matching gifts program.

RETURN TO:
 Friends of Crex
 102 East Crex Avenue
 Grantsburg, WI 54840

Thank you! Donations and Memberships March 27-August 27, 2014

Endowment Fund

\$10- \$99
Burki, K in memory of Ronald
Arnold
Chase, Paul
WI Sharp-tailed Grouse Society

\$100-\$499
Fox, Jim & Stephanie
Olson, Sue in honor of Phyllis
Olson (brick)
Waterman, Bob & Nick in honor
of Buddy and Jess Fisher
(brick)

\$1000-\$4999
Malmquist, Max
E Lafayette Quirin and
Etiennette A. Quirin
Foundation

Land Acquisition Fund

\$10- \$99
Brown, Melanie
Cameron, Rory
Davis, Brad & Christine
Evans, Tom & Lorraine
Harmon, Robert L Jr.
Larsen, Debbie & Oxendale,
David
McClanahan, Tom & Ginny
Palzer, Gordy and Mary
Raymer, Louis
Saur, Ed

\$100-\$499
Cole, Mike for Hazel, Helga and
Hattie
Evenson, David & Shirley Anne
Hedlund, Paul
Marsh, Nancy
Nelson, Nancy & Russ
Rivard, Harold
Ward, Gilbert
Witt-Crosswhite, Judith and Witt,
Ruth

\$1000-\$4999
Malmquist, Max
Prichard, Michael

\$5000+
Pusch, Joachim & Evelyn

Mess Hall

\$10- \$99
Corn, Stewart
DeMienk, Gary and Tamsin Troff
Family in memory of Dr. Howard
Kooiker
Ginley, Patricia
Grantsburg Girl Scouts
Holm, Katelin
Hummel, Debbie in memory of Dr.
Howard Kooiker
Johnston, Sherwood & Urbrock,
Laurita
Larsen, Debra & Oxendale, David
Lee, Tim
McRae, Marjorie

Menge, John
Meyer, Kraig & Cindy
Sandve, Richard
South, Scott & Mary
Vnette, Mary

\$100-\$499
Evrard, Jim & Shirley
Hertenstein, Robert & Marilyn
McMullen, Nancy
Mille Lacs Oil
Company/Grantsburg BP
Nelson, Marjorie
O'Hara, Robert
Peer, Stan & Betty
Plaggemars, David in memory of
Dr. Howard Kooiker
Renner, Janine in memory of Dr.
Howard Kooiker
Stoll, Paul
Sundquist, Doug (Smiley) & Katie
Tirrell, Joseph in memory of Dr.
Howard Kooiker
VDD Dog Association

\$500-\$999
Kannes, Eunice (estate bequest)

\$1000-\$4999
Anderson, Donald & Lucille
Evenson, David & Shirley Anne
Malmquist, Max
McNally, Jerry & JoLouise
McNally, Steve & Faith
Petraske, Gretchen & Harold

10,000+
Knowles-Nelson Stewardship
Fund

General Fund/Other Donations
\$10- \$99
Forrest, M in honor of Buddy and
Jess Fisher

\$100-\$499
Kanes, Brian & Betsey in memory
of Erv and Marjie Swenson
Osceola Elementary

Other Items

Evrard, Jim for gift shop items
Evrard, Shirley for gift shop items
Wheeler, LouAnn for gift shop
items and kitchen supplies

New Members

Baker, Steve & Juli
Borchardt, Joy
Burkart, Jim & Mary
Frendt, Thomas
Glaeve, Gerarld
Harwick, Rob & Gabby
Hutchins, Sandra
Johnston, Sherwood & Urbrock,
Laurita
Judd, Shannon & Kjome, Craig
Kunze, Patti & Harter, Kevin
Lane, Kathy
Lozon, Janet
Mahowold, Amy
Noland, Scott & Okstad, Sara

O'Falvey, Halle
O'Keefe, Donna & Gene
Palm, Randall
Prokop, Dan & Jaide
Prokop, Erin & Zack
Silge, Norm and Judy
Spoden, Mary Ann
Sullivan, Mary
Swerkstrom, Pat & Mary
Vallie, William & Kay
Ziemek, Joel

New and Renewing Patron Members

Heimler, Arthur & Marion
Kieffer, Nick
Meyers, Chet & Miriam
Witt-Crosswhite, Judith and
Witt, Ruth

New/Upgraded Life Members

Fisher, Buddy and Jessica
Olson, Manley
Sandve, Richard

Printed on recycled paper



www.crexmadows.org
Grantsburg, WI 54840
102 East Crex Ave.



30th Annual Friends of Crex Membership Meeting
Sunday, September 21, 2014, 1 pm
Crex Meadows Wildlife Education and Visitor Center

Please join us for our 30th Annual Membership Meeting. This is your chance to get all the latest news about Crex Meadows, the Education Center, and the Friends of Crex.

The meeting includes updates of all the happenings with the Friends of Crex and the Education Center. It also includes an election for our Board of Directors and, of course, door prizes. The social hour, following the meeting, provides a good opportunity to catch up with old friends and visit with other members of our organization. Join us for treats and coffee in the classroom.

Our newest Wildlife Biologist (but long-time Crex staff member), Bob Hanson, will speak to us about the Northwest Sands Corridor Partnership, which will potentially involve the Friends of Crex and other area Friends groups and public agencies involved with Barrens habitat management in Northwest Wisconsin for collaboration on a plan to promote connecting the Barrens habitats in the region.

We have one positions on our Board of Directors that is up for re-election. Please fill out the ballot below. Individual Members get 1 vote, Family, Patron and Life Members get two votes (if there are two members). Jean Marie Waddell has served in this position for the past three years and has agreed to run for re-election for a second three-year term. Jean Marie is from Hudson, WI. A retired chemistry teacher, she has a cabin on the North side of Crex Meadows, and spends a lot of time exploring the meadows throughout the year. Jean Marie is an active Friends of Crex volunteer, and has been an invaluable member of the Board of Directors, lending her editing skills to the Sharptale newsletter, and helping to re-write the by-laws of the Friends of Crex. She believes that Crex Meadows is a place to be preserved and treasured.

Renewal Notice:

We want to remind you that memberships expire on October 1 (check the label on your newsletter to see if your membership expires this year). If you wish to renew your membership, you may do so at the meeting or mail in your renewal from page 7 of the newsletter. Thanks!

Ballot – Friends of Crex Board of Directors

Vote for one:

_____ Jean Marie Waddell

_____ other (write in name)

Please bring your ballot to the meeting or send to: Friends of Crex, 102 East Crex Ave., Grantsburg, WI 54840, posted before September 15 to ensure that we receive it in time.



The Friends of Crex invites you to the 5th annual

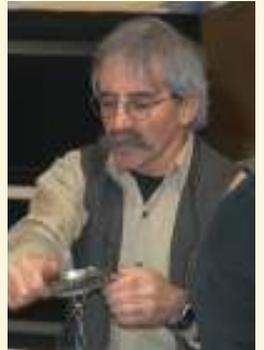
Land Acquisition Fund Benefit Dinner

Saturday, November 8, 2014, 6:00—9:00 PM

At the Crex Meadows Wildlife Education and Visitor Center

Join us for the cocktail hour at 6pm, followed by dinner at 7pm. Dinner will include homemade bread, a hearty vegetable soup, grilled pork loin, roasted root vegetables, and, of course, pie.

Our speaker for the evening is Wisconsin DNR Furbearer Specialist John Olson, who will speak about his recent trip to Siberia, Russia as a United States representative to the annual Joint Management Committee (with the European Union, Russia, Canada and the US) meeting in October, 2013. As an “invited observer” the United States delegation is comprised of personnel from state, federal, tribal and national organizations that represent interests of constituents concerned about sustained furbearer management, subsistence needs, and humane trap use. Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Trapping is the U.S. program that highlights the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and has become the largest research effort ever undertaken in the name of conservation in our nations’ history. Travel to Yakutsk, Siberia, to learn about the local culture, events that led to a surprise announcement, and the worldwide impacts of this announcement.



John Olson has been with the Wisconsin DNR for over 40 years, working exciting programs involving bald eagles, common loons, ospreys, forest habitat and black bears. He is stationed at Ashland and has served at various duty stations across northern Wisconsin as a Forest Habitat Coordinator, Wildlife Biologist, area wildlife supervisor, wildlife tribal liaison, wildlife county forest liaison, and Furbearer Ecologist. Beginning in the early 1990’s furbearer management, trapper education and humane trap research became a big part of his work in Wisconsin, across the U.S. , and even in other countries. This presentation relates to much of this work. John is a self-described “gather” of everything from gardens to grouse, wild rice to elk, muskrats to maple syrup, pulpwood to cabin logs - if it grows out there and is sustainable – he’ll collect it. If it’s edible, he’ll stuff it into a quart jar and “can” it! We promise you an informative and entertaining evening!

Tickets for this dinner are \$50 per person. There is a limit of 70 seats.

The registration deadline is November 2nd, unless we fill up early.

Please detach the form below and return to:
Friends of Crex, 102 E Crex Ave, Grantsburg, WI 54840

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

___ I/We will attend. # People _____ Enclosed is \$ _____ (\$50/person)

___ I/We would like to make an additional donation of \$ _____ to the Land Acquisition Fund.

-or-

___ I/We cannot attend, but I would like to donate \$ _____ to the Land Acquisition Fund.

Please make checks out to Friends of Crex. To pay by credit card, please call us at 715-463-CREX .

ABOUT THE FRIENDS OF CREX LAND ACQUISITION FUND

Crex Meadows: not all public land

When Crex Meadows was established in 1946, a Project Boundary was drawn around property that would create the most effective and productive wildlife area. At the present time the DNR owns 28,259 acres of the 31,094 acres that lie within the project boundary. The DNR has made a continuous effort to purchase remaining private land as it becomes available, but for a variety of reasons it is becoming more difficult for the DNR to purchase property.

Land Acquisition Fund:

The Friends of Crex has established a fund to help the DNR purchase key properties within and near the boundaries of the Glacial Lakes Grantsburg Wildlife Areas (Crex Meadows, Fish Lake, Amsterdam Sloughs and Danbury). To date, we have raised over \$130,000 for Land Acquisition use. We need much more than this in order to achieve all of our Land Acquisition goals.

How it works

A variety of methods are used to help the state obtain critical lands. The funds may be used as collateral to obtain Stewardship grants and grants from other organizations to purchase lands that would be donated to the WI-DNR. The funds may also be used outright to purchase land, with the understanding that the WI-DNR will eventually purchase these lands from us.

You can “Own” Crex Meadows

The original land at Crex Meadows cost the State of Wisconsin \$30 per acre. Each donor who gives \$30 or more will receive an honorary deed to current Crex Meadows property (at the current average rate of \$1500/acre, \$30 would “buy” 870 square feet) which will include coordinates to your property. Each summer, we also host a Landowner’s Picnic at the rest area for all of our “land owners”.



Any donation of \$30 or more (NOT including your dinner reservation), qualifies for a land deed. Please specify on your donation how you want your name displayed on the Land Deed.

Thank you for your donation
and for your ongoing and generous support of all the
efforts of the Friends of Crex.

Crex Meadows Wildlife Area

102 East Crex Avenue Grantsburg, WI 54840

www.crexmeadows.org/



2014 Fall

Calendar of Events

For more information, contact:

Kristi Pupak, Wildlife Conservation Educator
715-463-2739 or kristina.pupak@wisconsin.gov

WDNR Hunter Safety Education

September 15 – 20

6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Class is a requirement to purchase any hunting license in Wisconsin for anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1973. Please call Chris Spaight, WDNR Conservation Warden, at 715-463-2900 to register. Class is limited to 25 students.

Sunset with the Sandhills Tours

Saturdays: October 11, October 18, October 25

5:00 pm - Sunset

Meet at the Center then car-pool through the wildlife area to watch the Sandhill Cranes fly in from their daytime feeding grounds to their nightly roosting grounds. Pre-registration required. Fee: \$5/person. Space limited to 30 people. First 10 people may reserve space in the van.

Crex Photo Club

Saturdays: September 13, October 11, November 8

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Learn more about digital photography. Share images taken at Crex Meadows WA and the surrounding wildlife areas with fellow photographers to learn new techniques.

Little Wildlifers

Wednesdays: September 17, October 15, November 19, December 17

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Join the wildlife educator for a stories, songs, crafts, and activities chosen especially for children pre-K through Kindergarten and their parents. A different animal will be featured each month.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers needed for in preparation for Fall Wildlife Fest and Halloween Happenings Events. If interested in volunteering, please contact: Kristi Pupak, Wildlife Conservation Educator, at 715-463-2739 or via email: Kristina.pupak@wisconsin.gov

Digital Photography Workshop

Saturday, September 6

There are two separate sessions; the morning session (8:00 am – 12:00 pm) is for beginner photographers or those who just want a refresher on how to use your digital camera, and the afternoon session (1:00 pm – 6:30 pm) is all about getting creative with your camera. Sign up for one or both of the sessions. Space limited. Session fees vary.

Active Trails Hike

Tuesday, September 9

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Enjoy the season with a guided 1.25 mile walk along a mile trail with an educator. Whether a first time visitor or a regular on the trails, all ages welcome. Participants will learn about nocturnal animal adaptations with a chance to win prizes! Recommended to bring: water, flashlight, bug spray, and hiking shoes.

Mushroom Identification Talk & Tour

Sunday, September 14

1:00pm - 4:00 pm

Meet at the Crex Meadows Wildlife Education Center to explore the mysterious world of fungi with volunteer expert John Menge.

Wolf Trapper Education

Saturday, September 20

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

The department has developed voluntary training workshops for those with a permit and plans to attempt to trap a wolf. The cost of the workshop is \$15. Pre-registration is required. Preference will be given to those with a 2014 wolf harvest permit. For more information and to register, please contact John Irwin, wolf trapper education coordinator, at 715-341-7596.

Friends of Crex Annual Membership Meeting

Sunday, September 21

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Join the FOC annual meeting, to review finances and activities in the past year, featuring a special presentation on the Northwest Sands by Bob Hanson, Wildlife Biologist.

Annual Fall Wildlife Fest**Saturday, October 4****9:00 am – 1:00 pm**

Get outside and go WILD at the 32nd Annual Fall Wildlife Fest. The event will feature a picnic lunch, live music, exhibits, guest speakers, hand on demonstrations, tours, game calling completion, and children's activities. Wear camouflage for a door prize! The 2014 event will highlight the 100th Anniversary of the Jordan Buck. Admission: Free

Active Trails Bike**Tuesday, October 7****5:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

Cruise with Crex on a 5 mile bike ride! Stimulate your senses with spectacular scenery through the northwest sands. Stops along the way, participate in wildlife related activities for children and adults! Helmets required.

FOC Thousand Dollar Club**Friday, October 10****5:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

Donors of \$1,000 or more, in a calendar year, to the Friends of Crex, are invited to a three hour event, which includes wine, hors d'ouvers, a private tour of the wildlife area and a gourmet dinner. This is an invitation only event.

Bow Drill for Beginners Workshop**Thursday, October 16****6:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

Explore the types of wood, the basic parts, and technique used in the basic bow drill fire set with volunteer expert, Larry Roberts. All materials are provided for this class, however a good sharp locking pocket knife or small fixed blade will be helpful.

Halloween Happenings Pumpkin Carving**Wednesday, October 29****6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

Get in the spooky spirit with a hands-on carving night for kids and families. In preparation for Halloween Happenings, volunteers plan to carve 100 pumpkins while enjoying some tasty treats! Pumpkins provided, recommended to bring your own carving tools. Can't make it? Pick up a load of pumpkins and bring them back as jack- o-lanterns! Volunteers will be able to take their carved pumpkins home after 8 pm November 1.

Annual Halloween Happenings Event**Saturday, November 1****5:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

A fun filled family evening! Hike the glowing trail behind the visitor center lit up by Jack-O'Lanterns. Learn about the masked animals found at Crex, participate in fall crafts, and enjoy some seasonal treats. Wear your masked costumes!

Owl Prowl**Friday, November 7****6:00 pm – 7:30 pm**

Meet WDNR Wildlife Biologist ,Chris Cold to learn about these majestic predators of the night skies. Live owls will be shown!

Land Acquisition Benefit Dinner**Saturday, November 8****6:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

Join us for the cocktail hour at 6 pm, followed by dinner at 7 pm and a presentation about the Raw Horse and Russia, The Wild Fur Trade by John Olson, WDNR Furbearer Specialist at 8 pm. The Friends of Crex has established the Land Acquisition Fund to help the DNR purchase key properties within the boundaries of the Glacial Lakes Grantsburg Wildlife Areas. Tickets for this dinner are \$50 per person. Limit: 70 seats. Registration deadline: October 31 or when full.

Carnivore Tracking Workshop**Saturday, December 6****9:00 am – 3:00 pm**

Learn tracking skills, identification and interpreting gait. Training begins in the visitor center followed by outdoor field training. Persons completing the carnivore tracking workshop and wolf ecology workshop will qualify to become a WDNR Volunteer Carnivore Tracker and assist with tracking surveys. Lunch and materials are provided by a WDNR Citizen Science Monitoring grant. Be sure to dress for winter weather for afternoon tracking session. Field work involves walking through snow. Pre-registration required. Limited to 50 participants.

Wolf Ecology Workshop**Sunday, December 7****9:00 am – 3:00 pm**

Enjoy shared learning with other wolf enthusiasts and wolf experts. Learn about wolf history, biology and monitoring techniques. Persons completing the carnivore tracking workshop and wolf ecology workshop will qualify to become a WDNR Volunteer Carnivore Tracker and assist with tracking surveys. Lunch and materials are provided by a WDNR Citizen Science Monitoring grant. Be sure to dress for winter weather. Pre-registration required. Limited to 50 participants.