



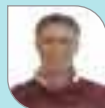
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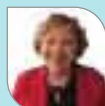
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*Cover Photo: Mourning Cloak Butterfly *Nymphalis antiopa*: usually the first butterfly seen in Spring as they hibernate as adults; distinctive large (wingspan 3-4 inches) dark butterfly with cream-yellow borders.*

Photo by LeAnn Plinske

Our Mission: The Northland Arboretum strives to be a valued community asset providing outdoor recreation and educational activities for all while protecting the natural environment.

Our Vision: The Northland Arboretum will be the premier destination in Central Minnesota connecting people to the environment for the promotion of education, recreation and conservation.



A word from the Executive Director

Just like we toss aside our winter sweaters and allow our skin to soak up the sun, the Arboretum gardens are ready for the snow to disappear and release pent-up energy after a long Minnesota winter. After months of being wrapped up in blankets of snow, our Arboretum is ready to show off! I always enjoy eagerly awaiting the first signs of spring. I'm lucky to have a large window in my office so when the robins start arriving at the birdfeeders across the parking lot, I know it can't be too much longer and the warmth will follow. There are other telltale signs of Spring here at the Arb. Early in the season, keep an eye out for the pale pasqueflowers which show up on the edges of our trails around Easter. Before you know it, the tulips will be popping out. Our gardens will stir again with the return of our awesome volunteers. The sound of little feet and giggles throughout the visitor center means school field trips are underway. No one knows how to announce Spring quite like those kiddos!

Speaking of young adventurers, I'm particularly looking forward to our Arbor Day event again this year which will include a ton of outdoor activities, demonstrations, and giveaways. Last year over 1,000 people attended this free event! You do not want to miss the kickoff, at 10:00 AM April 30th, which is a choice of a 1 mile or 5k non-competitive hike focused on having fun outdoors. Prizes for best costumes, biggest group and best pet costume make it a fun event for the whole family, a group of friends, or an employee outing. You better start thinking about that costume now!

If a hike isn't your style, take in other event activities like music at the gazebo, a silent auction, scavenger hunts, nature crafts, and more! We will even be recognizing an awesome member of the community with an Environmental Stewardship Award. See all event details within this publication.

Before we know it, the sights and sounds of spring will quickly give way to summer and that is when the Arb really gets to shine! Our Summer Nature Camp will take place every Thursday with new, exciting topics each week! From frogs to dragonflies, vegetables to native flowers, your kids will have an amazing summer experience with our knowledgeable staff and volunteers. Lady slippers will bloom mid-June so mark your calendars for our Pink Party! Adult and youth gardening classes will ensure your plants produce top-notch veggies. There will be volunteer opportunities abound where you can either teach others about your knowledge of nature or get your hands dirty and help our Weekly Weeders in the gardens. I'm so excited to share more workshops, events and classes with you in our monthly e-newsletter *The Leaf*. To subscribe, simply visit our website.

It is truly a pleasure to serve our community and we look forward to another wonderful season here at the Arb. We hope to see you soon!

Candice Zimmermann
Executive Director



Board Member Highlight Lori Scharenbreich

Lori is the newest member of our board, joining in the fall of 2021. She owns two local businesses: West Shore Marketing, and Brainerd's first co-working office, Spaces. Lori spent the first 15 years of her career in corporate marketing and business was communications. However, in the last 5 years as a small business owner, she has focused on helping small businesses and nonprofits, particularly with helping them stand out on social media and creating cohesive, professional communications.

Since joining the Board, Lori dove into helping the Arb with its marketing efforts. From creating a new website and event ticketing system, to now leading the Marketing committee, her goal is help the Arb become a premiere tourism destination and reinforcing our message of promoting health and wellness in the Lakes Area. Each time she is here, she thinks, "How lucky are we to have this crown jewel in our backyard? The Arb has so much to offer - a beautiful trail system to explore, top-notch educational opportunities, and as a parent, there is no better place to inspire children to love the outdoors."

Lori lives in Crosslake with her husband, Lucas, and their two children, Cara, age 12, and Liam, age 10. She loves spending time exploring our area lakes and watching her children participate in their many activities!

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Free bag &
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- Northland Arboretum -
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Northland Arboretum

Saturday, April 30, 11 am - 2 pm

Hikes begin at 10 am

Register upon entry to win a kayak!

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• TAKE A HIKE •

AT THE
Northland Arboretum

Individuals and families are encouraged to experience the Northland Arboretum's natural beauty and get some exercise at non-competitive 1 mile and 5K hikes that are being held at the Arboretum on Saturday, April 30, as part of its annual Arbor Day Celebration.

Get a FREE t-shirt at our Arbor Day celebration!

The easy hikes through the Arb's natural beauty will begin at 10 a.m. Register in advance at northlandarb.org and receive a free T-shirt. Prizes will be awarded for best individual, group, and dog costumes and largest group. Park at the V.A. Clinic and use the Arb's entrance off Northwest 7th Street behind Westgate Mall.



Following the hike, stay at the Arb for more activities, presentations, a tree planting ceremony, and demonstrations from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will also be a bouncy house, face painting, silent auction, live music, and refreshments. Those attending will receive a free commemorative bag and tree seedling and can enter a drawing to win a kayak.

Thanks to major sponsors Cuyuna Regional Medical Center, Essentia Health and Mike's Tree Service, the event is free for the community to attend. For all the details, visit <http://northlandarb.org>



*Quilt donated by
LeAnn Plinske*

Kayak donated by CRMC

Arbor Day Silent Auction

Silent Auction starting at 11:00 am

Check out our silent auction and place a bid on these great items

- Northpoint Aviation ½ hour scenic flight
- Safari North passes
- Beekeeping & Poultry supplies from Mann Lake
- Fishing rod from Oars and Mine Docks
- *and too many other items to list!*



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The Sax-Zim Bog

By Judd Brink Guide/Owner MN Backyard Birds

The Sax-Zim Bog is designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA). A unique region located in the state of Minnesota that is known for its rare and hard to find birds. The habitat is mostly Black Spruce (*Picea mariana*) and Tamarac (*Larix laricina*) found about 45 minutes northwest of Duluth, Minnesota. The area can be a birder's and photographer's paradise for winter owls even when January temperatures are 30 below 0! People come from all over the country and around the world to experience this unique opportunity to see owls and many other bog specialists. Another reason this particular bog is so popular is its accessibility to observe and study the flora and fauna found here.

The Sax-Zim Bog is about 300 square miles composed of many different habitats including hay fields, mixed deciduous and conifer woods, meadows, lakes, rivers and aspen uplands. The combination and diversity of habitats is home for many "boreal species" like the Canada Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*), Boreal Chickadee (*Poecile hudsonicus*), Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*) and Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*). In most winters this area attracts birds that have moved down from northern Minnesota and Canada depending on



Great Grey Owl

Canada Jay



the conditions. This seasonal movement, or in some years irruptions, of species like the Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*), Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*), Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosi*), White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) and Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*), Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*) and Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*) and Common Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea*) can be amazing. During the major owl irruption of 2004-2005 my single day count for Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosi*) was 152 birds! The

Sax-Zim Bog is one of the premier birdwatching destinations in the country, especially during the winter season. It gives birders and photographers a unique opportunity to check off their bucket list or click the shutter button on rare or hard to find birds in a single day. Many of the clients that I guide to the bog come from around the country and are here for the opportunity to see or photograph these birds for the very first time. I recently had a client from Colorado who was hoping to see some of the rare owls; he had been waiting for 40 years. Just getting here was a challenge for him due to lay-overs and delayed flights. During the two days we were able to see the Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*), Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosi*), and Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*). It was a thrilling and wonderful experience, and I am so happy that my client was able to see all of the owls.

A non-profit group called "Friends of Sax-Zim Bog" was started in 2010 with a mission to preserve, protect and promote the bog. This includes saving the mature Black Spruce and Tamarac trees from logging. In 2014 the Welcome Center was built along Owl Avenue. The building is environmentally friendly and is off the grid. The center has a sod roof with native plants and solar panels above the outhouse make this building very unique. The Welcome Center is open during the winter months giving visitors a place to warm up and ask volunteers/naturalists questions about the bog and of course, where to find the birds.

Another addition to the area is the Warren Nelson Memorial Bog, which is originally made up of 40 acres of land purchased by the Friends of Sax-Zim Bog. Now it has expanded to 120 acres thanks to other generous gifts and donations. Warren Nelson from Aitkin County was one of the best birders in the state and was often found birding along the back county roads whenever possible. He often took people birding with him and did many programs and talks about birds and nature. Warren was one of my early birding mentors and friends. When he passed away friends who knew him wanted to do something to honor his love and passion of birds. Now a board walk is named after him and is wonderful place to visit and view many of the boreal species. At the beginning of the board walk there is some signage talking about Warren with another sign showing all who contributed in his honor to help purchase this area now to be protected and preserved for future generations

Judd Brink has been guiding in the Sax-Zim Bog for over 10 years. The winter season offers the best opportunities to see and photograph owls and the other rare or hard to find birds. Please contact Judd Brink about tours to the famous Sax-Zim Bog by email at info@birdminnesota.com or view my photos and bog adventures on the website birdminnesota.com. For more info on the bog please visit <https://saxzim.org/> and for lodging in the area try <http://www.alesches.com/> Happy Birding!

MN Backyard Birds

Snowy Owl



Gifts galore are available at Nature's Gifts, our unique and local gift shop! It's located in our Visitor Center and is open 8 am - 4:30 pm every weekday and on weekends 10 am-4 pm. Shop for your family and friends.

Check out the new books we just got in on straw bale gardening and outdoor campfire cooking.

Remember gift certificates make great gifts for Mother's Day & Father's Day!

Give us a call and we'll set aside an item for you if you see something you like on this post!





Seasons of the Arboretum: When is the best time to visit?

Photos and articles by Charles Johnson

The Arboretum and I have become acquainted over the past decade. I have walked or snowshoed over 200 miles of the arb trails in that time, so, I'm not just guessing when I give an answer to the question in the title.

The spring is nice – no insects, and all the vegetation is vibrant green. The trails may damp in low places; good hiking boots is worth considering. Among the new growth is the aromas of the fresh air, along with the songs of returning birds. The clearest water of the year fills the creek and the ponds. Turtles and frogs emerge from their sleep – waterfowl are drawn in to the clarity of the water. Muskrats and beaver make their presence known, and deer come to the water's edge. The arboretum volunteers begin preparing the gardens, the landscape crew clear up any

winter treefalls, and those in the office offer activities that come with spring – Arbor Day events and gathering maple sap for syrup are just a few.

In the summer, walking the trails is a feast of shade and sunshine, of trees, undergrowth, animals, and wildflowers. The trails are drier; it is easy to cross the lowest portions of the trails, opening the arboretum as wide as possible. The ponds and creeks offer new water lilies and fresh cattails. Bees hum among flowers as they follow their instincts. The woods are alive with birds and squirrels. Hognose snakes loll in the sun, These reptiles are not alone – you may find a deer or two reclining in the grass, where they might just watch you rather than rise and flee. Amazingly, when a hundred-pound deer flees, they are no louder than

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a twelve-ounce squirrel or chipmunk. The arboretum staff offers artwork for the kids, master gardening for the green thumbed folks, and guided hikes looking for birds, for wildflowers, and perhaps an evening walk during a full moon.

Autumn brings another personality to its trails. The leaves change colors – the bird population changes migrations occur, and some use the ponds as resting stops as they aim for warmer, southern air. Antlers sprout on deer, squirrels and other gatherers amass food for the coming winter, and hibernators begin their routine. The arboretum staff institutes the Haunted Trail event, the ski fans start preparing their equipment, and the daylight shortens.

Winter moves in with a slower rhythm for the arboretum. White snow starts slowly, then covers the ground and hangs in the branches. Birds and four legged beings seem a bit more reposed. The gardens are snow-covered as seeds now for a rebirth in the spring. The ski trails are groomed, the snowshoe trails are broken in by the first to arrive after each snowfall, and a certain silence weaves its way through the

arboretum that isn't experienced in any other season. There are still some activities for arboretum fans, but now they may be indoors or they are specifically designed for winter wear.

The arboretum has its seasons, and each season has its appeal. That's how I can answer the question at the top of the article.

When is the best time to visit the arboretum?

NOW!

Photos Above (L to R):

1. *Pasque flowers show up every April, especially along Little Ben.*
2. *Pink Lady Slippers grow in a nice patch just south of the Monet pond every June 10th or so.*
3. *Butterflies will feast on wildflowers either out in the arboretum or in the gardens near the Visitors Center in the summer and fall.*
4. *Gold finches can be seen among the thistles in late summer and early fall.*
5. *Deer can be seen in groups as they paw through the snow during the winter months.*



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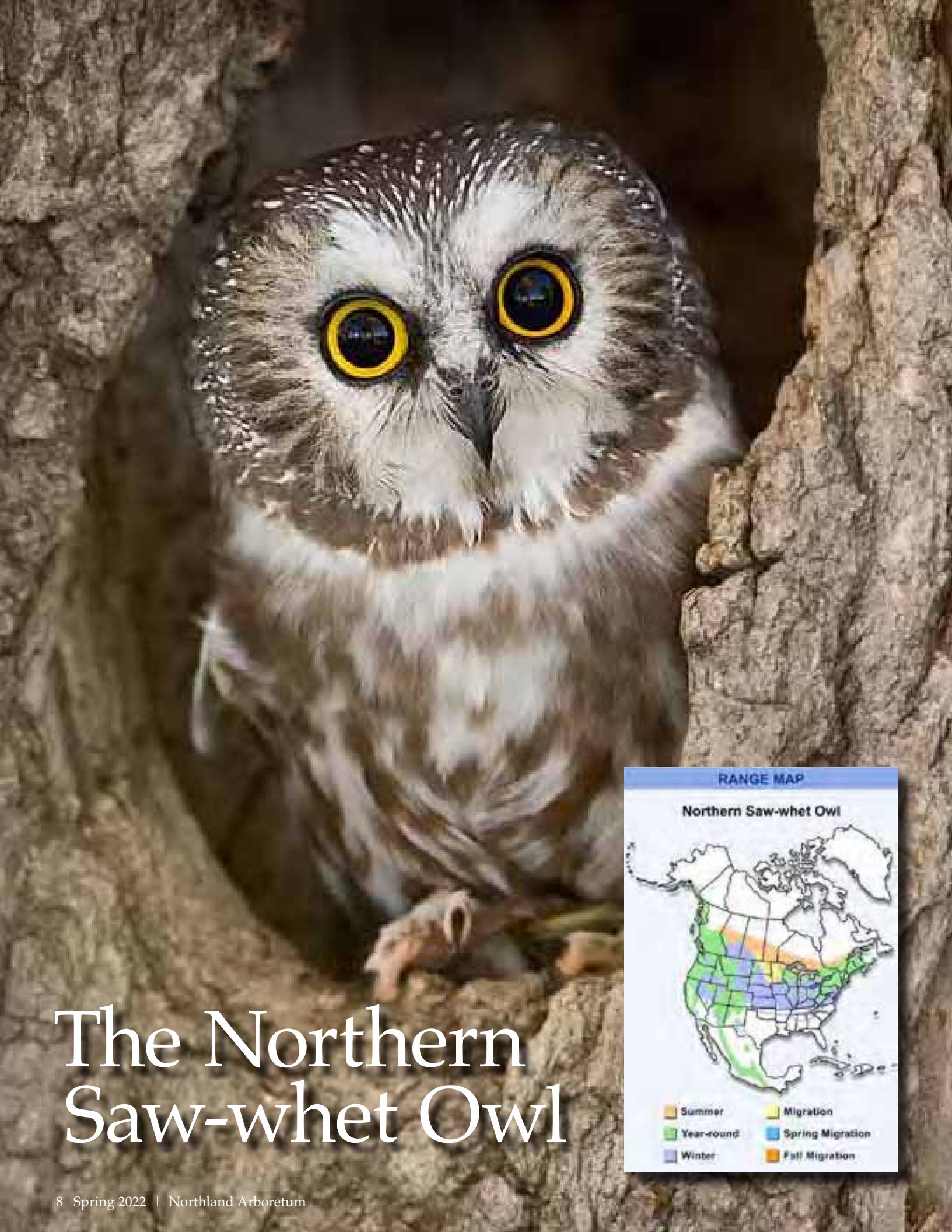
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The Northern Saw-whet Owl



The Northern Saw-whet Owl

By Peg Serani – Proud Lifetime Member of Northland Arboretum and a Minnesota Master Naturalist



🦉 The Saw-whet Owl can live up to 7 years in the wild and 16 years in captivity.

🦉 They hunt at night for mice, shrews and baby animals such as squirrels. They also eat moths, grasshoppers and beetles. During migration they will also eat other birds.

🦉 When food is plentiful they will store extra food. They thaw their food in the winter by incubating it.

🦉 They nest in old cavities from other birds like the Northern Flicker or Pileated Woodpecker. They will also nest in man-made boxes but will only use these once. They nest anywhere from 15 to 60 feet off the ground.

🦉 The female lays 4 to 7 eggs and will have 1 to 2 broods every summer. Incubation is 26 to 29 days.

I have heard of the Northern Saw-whet owl, but have never seen one in real life settings. I know they are in our area as people have told me of their sightings. We hear about the Barred Owl and the Great-horned Owl, but not much about the Saw-whet Owl. That got my curiosity going. Here are a few fun facts that I found about this little owl.

🦉 The Saw-whet Owl's name comes from the sound (or skiew) it makes when alarmed. It resembles the whetting of a saw.

🦉 Their advertising call sounds like "too-too-too" and can be heard almost a quarter of a mile away.

🦉 They are one of the smallest species of owl in the United States and the world. The adult male is less than 8 inches long while the female can be up to 8 ½ inches long.

🦉 The Saw-whet Owl lives in forested areas across North America with good cover that includes mostly conifers. They also like a thick tangle of shrubs such as buckthorn.

🦉 They are not that rare but are hard to see due to their wonderful camouflage.

🦉 When startled they will elongate their body to look like a tree branch and also will bring one wing around to the front of their body hiding their feet making them hard to see.

🦉 The female does all the incubating while the male does the hunting. When the young are about 18 days old the female will leave the nest but the male will continue to feed the young up to a month after they fledge.

🦉 The young owl's plumage is completely different than their adult plumage. It is so different that one may think it is a totally different owl species. At about one year the young owl will molt and get their adult plumage. (see photo)

🦉 An adult weighs about 3.6 ounces. That is less than the weight of a deck of cards!

🦉 Females tend to migrate but the males tend to stay near their breeding grounds year round.

🦉 The Saw-whet owl is prey to larger owls such as the Great-horned and the Barred.

Northland Arboretum's director, Candice, received a call from a concerned party who found a dead Saw-whet owl and was wondering if they could donate it to the Arb to be mounted. Watch the walls of the visitor center as it will be added to their owl collection sometime soon!

Now get out there and take a hike – can YOU find the elusive Saw-whet Owl? It has been seen at the Arb!

*Photos: Left, Adult Saw-whet Owl (Google Image)
Above, 3 immature Saw-whet Owls (Goggle Image)*

Spring! Mother nature is awakening and will blossom into summer

By Rosanne Blass, University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener

Birds are returning, wildflowers are emerging, and gardeners are planning and planting. The ARB Library located in the Conference Room holds answers to your nature questions and problems.

Serious birders will find Thomas Roberts' A Manual for the Identification of the Birds of Minnesota and Neighboring States with its detailed list of Minnesota birds to be a valuable resource. Adele Porter's Wild About Minnesota Birds: A Youth's Guide to the Birds of Minnesota with color photos, informative side bars, and glossary introduces the beginning birder to 69 species of Minnesota birds. Readers will learn about bird habitats, favorite foods, songs and calls, life cycles, migration patterns, as well as how, when, and where to look for birds. National Geographic Birding Essential: All the Tools, Techniques, Tips You Need to Begin and Become a Better Birder, by Jonathan Alderfer and Jon L Donn is a self-explanatory title. Tips for getting started as a birder include recommendations for selecting binoculars and field guides. You'll learn the parts of a bird as well as how to identify birds and variations in birds. Challenges to identifying birds and skills used to search for and observe birds are discussed. Taxonomy, nomenclature, and a glossary complete this book. Finally, two small pamphlets may be of interest to birders: Checklist of the Birds of Minnesota and Invite Birds to Your Home: Consecutive Planting for the Midand west.

What are all of those wildflowers popping up here and there? Wildflowers of Minnesota by Stan Tekiela and Northland Wild Flowers by John B. and Evelyn W. Moyle are two easy to use guides that you will find in the ARB Library. Additional titles about planting and raising wildflowers are also available.

If you have questions about working with your landscape, one of a number of landscaping books that might be useful to you is Rodale's Landscape Problem Solver by Jeff and Liz Ball which offers a plant - by - plant guide to landscape solutions for trees, shrubs, roses, plus ground covers, vines, and foliage plants. It also addresses pests and diseases, managing the environment, and concludes with a list of sources for equipment and supplies, recommended readings, and a hardiness zone map. Midwest Landscaping edited by Craig Bergman and Reader's Digest Guide to Home Landscaping are among other helpful resources for landscape planning and management.

As spring blossoms into summer, gardeners planning to plant fruits and vegetables or planning to add perennials and annuals to their gardens will find a wide assortment of helpful books such as Better Homes and Gardens Vegetables and Fruit Gardening Made Easy and Encyclopedia of Annuals and Perennials.

To find the books that you are looking for, see the color-coded guide on the side of the bookshelf as you enter the room. You may check out books by writing your name, date, titles, and date on the sign-out sheet sitting on the fourth shelf in the bookcase closest to the door. When you return your books, please enter the return date on the sign-out sheet.

Finally, a heartfelt THANK YOU to those who have donated books and to those who are using the books!





2022 Dates Still Available!

Article by Jenny Holmes

From engagement photos to the wedding day, the Northland Arboretum is a top contender in the most beautiful places throughout the Brainerd Lakes Area to set the scene.

With over 500 acres of immaculate green space, couples can choose an indoor or outdoor location to say their "I Do's." The Arboretum offers gazebo gardens with adequate space for guests. Those worried about inclement weather can choose to take advantage of the covered patio or deck space, allowing for an outdoor wedding in a guaranteed rain-free setting.

Considering a winter wedding? The snow cover adds a gorgeous element to that big day, whether indoors or out.

Dance the night away in our lower level reception area. Built to accommodate 177 guests, you'll have access to the Arboretum's full kitchen area, dance floor, adjoining patio with picnic tables, projector and screen, computer hook up, and wireless internet.

Looking for a smaller, more intimate space? The Arboretum also makes available an upper level reception area seating approximately 64; and also offers a full kitchen with dishwasher, adjoining deck with picnic tables, gas fireplace, projector with screen, computer hookup and audio capabilities, and wireless internet. When it comes to the menu, the Arboretum makes it easy for couples and their families by allowing food either brought from home or catered meals. The choice is yours, making it affordable for any budget.

The Arboretum, voted #1 best wedding/party venue, also provides ample parking for guests, and works with couples throughout the planning process to ensure the day is as perfect as you have always dreamed of.

For pricing information and additional details, visit northlandarb.org and additional details, visit northlandarb.org



Ecosystem Purpose:

The *Asclepias* genus, famously known as milkweed, is the common name for a group of plants that are the only hosts for the monarch butterfly, whose population is declining due to habitat loss and herbicide use. The plant also captivates bees and other insects toward its nectar-producing capabilities and larval food source, who spread pollen as the plant's waxy sacks attach to their legs.

Milkweed varieties also play an important role throughout Minnesota ecosystems with their extensive roots systems. Their deep roots not only anchor the plant and gather nutrients, but also decrease erosion and improve water infiltration to surrounding water sources. Thus, the mighty milkweed is a common wildflower used in native gardens and best management practices for restoration and creating pollinator habitats.

Did you know that out of the 100 varieties dispersed across North America, fourteen different species of milkweed are native to Minnesota? Out of those, the following three are easily spotted within the Arboretum. However, see how many you can find and identify!

Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

Bloom time: June-September

Able to spread two feet wide when mature, butterfly milkweed's small bush-like appearance produces multiple stems crowded with finely-haired alternate leaves. These stout, hairy stems stretch skyward while producing eye-grabbing flat-top clusters of yellow-orange flowers—almost reflecting a setting sun. As the bloom time nears the end, large green pods form around the dying fire, which turn brown when mature. As this happens, the pod cracks itself open to allow brown seeds attached to white silken 'parachutes' to be carried off in the cool fall winds. Populations are commonly found along dry sunny fields, ditches, and prairies, adding pops of deep orange noticeable from the road.

Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)

Bloom time: June-August

Common milkweed is a prolific upright perennial, often creating colonies in sunny to part shade disturbed areas because of their rhizomatous roots. Their stout and hairy stems reach up to five feet tall in some areas, producing opposite oval to oblong leaves with a soft-haired underside. At the top, round clusters of drooping umbels ranging in the color of light-pink to deep mauve reflect pom-poms dancing in the wind. Near its ending bloom time, bumpy green pods

replace the blooms, eventually turning brown. Once fully mature, the pods crack themselves open, allowing their seeds to be carried off in the wind.

Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)

Bloom Time: June-August

Similar to its common cousin, swamp milkweed is an upright herbaceous perennial that grows up to five feet tall in full sun to part shade areas. However, this variety prefers moist environments, including marshes, bogs, and swamps; hence its name. Almost hairless stems grow similar opposite, hairless, lance-shaped leaves, which are over an inch wide and taper to a point. Its fragrant umbelled clusters display pink to purple flowers, creating both a bold and sweet-smelling landing strip for all pollinators. In August, swamp milkweed will trade its flowers for narrow pods, where flat seeds will disperse by the wind once fully mature.

Resources:

bwsr.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/2019-02/plant_1.pdf

www.butterflyencounters.com/milkweed-facts.html

twincities.wildones.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/32/2016/12/Minnesota-Milkweed-for-monarchs.pdf



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Become a Citizen Scientist!

Article and photos by LeAnn Plinske, Minnesota Master Naturalist and Northland Arboretum Volunteer

Becoming a citizen scientist is a great way to fulfill the Arb's Mission and Vision to promote Education • Recreation • Conservation.

What has more than 90,997,000 Observations worldwide of nearly 345,000 species in the wild?



Q: WHAT IS iNATURALIST?

A: iNaturalist is a joint initiative of the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society.

A: iNaturalist provides a place to record and organize nature findings, meet other nature enthusiasts, and learn about the natural world. It encourages the participation of a wide variety of nature enthusiasts, including, but not exclusive to, hikers, birders, bicyclists, beach combers, mushroom foragers, Master Naturalists, park rangers, ecologists, and fishermen. Through connecting these different perceptions and expertise of the natural world, iNaturalist hopes to create extensive community awareness of local biodiversity and promote exploration of local environments.

A: iNaturalist is an international online community that allows you to share observations to discuss, identify, and create research-quality citizen science data.

- Best choice if you want to connect with others, share data, and are interested in natural history.
- Users must be 13 or older to make an account.
- iNaturalist's identification model provides initial suggestions, but other people in the iNaturalist community help you identify and confirm your observations.
- Records observations as biodiversity data that contribute to citizen science.

- Photo, location, and time are recorded with each of your observations in the iNaturalist database.

On iNaturalist, data quality is important. **iNaturalist focuses on wild species**, meaning species that are naturally found in the wild and were not placed there by humans. Wild species could be birds and insects in your neighborhood or plants in a forest preserve, but not things like garden plants, pets, zoo animals, or copyright violations such as TV screenshots or photos found on Google Images.

Q: WHAT IS AN IDENTIFICATION?

A: An identification, or ID for short, is an assessment of the type of animal, plant, or other organism that was observed. On iNaturalist, other users are encouraged to add identifications to each other's observations, based on the evidence provided. You want to get your observations identified to Research Grade for science.

Q: HOW CAN I GET HELP IDENTIFYING WHAT I SAW?

A: Just make observations of wild organisms that have photos, locations, and dates. Every observation with those things gets automatically placed in the "Needs ID" category so people who are looking for observations to identify will find them.

A: All IDs on iNat are made by other users who are all volunteering their time to identify observations.

Q: HOW MANY OBSERVATIONS ARE POSTED WITHIN NORTHLAND ARBORETUM?

A: Over 1300 Observations of 486 species by 36 observers with 401 contributing identifiers.

A: Personally, I like to know the names of things. I have over 990 Observations of more than 400 species within the Arb, with 318 contributing identifiers.



I hope I have inspired your interest about using iNaturalist to increase your awareness and knowledge of the wonders of the natural world around you. Head out on a trail and discover!

Tips for Taking Photos:



- Take clear, identifiable photos.
- Focus on one species and fill the frame with your subject.
- Try different angles of the specimen to aid identification. For example, include the leaf and the flower of a plant. Multiple photos of the same organism must be added to the same observation.

Q: WHAT IS 'SEEK BY iNATURALIST'?

A: Seek is an educational tool built on iNaturalist and is recommended as the easier alternative for young beginner naturalists, providing tools such as automated species ID and nature journaling. This is an excellent resource for teachers who want to use iNaturalist in their classrooms.

A: Seek was designed with privacy in mind to make it kid-friendly.

A: Seek allows curious naturalists of all ages to earn badges and participate in challenges to observe organisms.

Q: HOW DO I GET STARTED AS A CITIZEN SCIENTIST WITH iNATURALIST?

A: Install the iNaturalist app on your mobile device or log in to iNaturalist.org and create an account.

A: View the many video tutorials in iNaturalist.org that help you navigate the site, add observations and more.

1) *Four-spotted Skimmer Dragonfly Libellula quadrimaculata* : an easy species to get a clear close-up photo as they often perch on twigs and grasses near water.

2) *Bloodroot Sanguinaria canadensis*: an early Spring ephemeral native wildflower that blooms before the trees leaf-out.

3) *Muskrat Ondatra zibethicus*: commonly seen swimming and foraging in Whiskey Creek and Monet Pond.

4) *Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel Ictidomys tridecemlineatus*: native of short-grass prairie, diurnal and active during the day, often seen sitting up near a den hole.

5) *Big Sand Tiger Beetle Cincindela formosa*: look for this small beetle out on Little Ben Trail. There are 97 Observations posted in Minnesota, but only one (mine) at Northland Arb!



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volunteers



Northland Arboretum Honors **Pat Shelito** for December 2021 Volunteer of the Month

Pat has been volunteering at the front desk for the Arboretum for 3 years. She really enjoys meeting the people coming to walk the trails and explore the gardens'. The Arboretum is a great place to volunteer! The staff and other volun-

teers are very friendly and accommodating. It is wonderful being a part of one of the most beautiful places in the Lakes Area.



Northland Arboretum Honors **Sharon Bodie** as Volunteer of the Month for February 2022!

Sharon has been a volunteer at the Arb for over 20 years working in every area at one time or another. She served on the board of directors at the Arboretum for 7 years. She is a Master Gardener, Brainerd Garden Club member and a

member of the Paul Bunyan Cyclist and Brainerd Nordic Ski Clubs.



Northland Arboretum Honors **Judd Brink** for January 2022 Volunteer of the Month

Judd is a long-term member and supporter of the Arb. He took the Master Naturalist course in 2011 and his project was to redo the Bluebird Trail. He has added 10 new Bluebird boxes since 2012 and redesigned the location and route of

the Bluebird trail and maintained them each week during the nesting season, April through August. MN Backyard Birds donated the feeding station and continues to maintain it each week for the past 10 years. Judd is the President of the Bee-Nay-She Bird Council, member at large for the Brainerd Audubon Chapter and member of the Master Naturalist Club, all that meet and volunteer for some events at the Arb. He is one of the guides/leaders for the spring bird walks sponsored by the Brainerd Audubon Chapter and participated in programs & presentations, Kids camp classes and school groups.

Happy Birding! If anyone has questions about feeding or watching birds, please contact Judd at jb@mnbackyardbirds.com



Northland Arboretum Honors **Sally Jacobsen** as Volunteer of the month for March 2022

Sally has been a long-time member and volunteer at the Northland Arboretum. As a Crow Wing County Master Gardener. She helped grow vegetables in the Giving Gardens. This involved planting, weeding, and harvesting over

2,800 pounds of food that was donated to local food shelves and the county. For Summer 2022, Sally will help with "Gardening 101", a 12-week hands-on experience teaching kids how to grow their own vegetables in the Gardens. Right now, Sally enjoys x-country skiing at the Arb and looking forward to spring.

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Volunteer Hours from January - April - that donated a reported 358 hours

Donation of \$250.00 to go towards our compost program in honor of Kelly Evans from Susan Brown

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