

MAC MATTERS

MACKENZIE CENTER NEWS

SPRING
2015



Outdoor Skills and Environmental Education

Spring is happening at MacKenzie! The critters are active, the apple orchard is in full bloom, and the Center is bustling with visitors every day of the week. Our exhibits are now open every day from 10am – 4pm, and we are gearing up for summer programs. Come out and visit the wildlife and enjoy a hike or a picnic. Mark your calendars for our summer events:

Summer Wildlife Series:

Join us for a series of evening educational tours featuring the wild residents at the MacKenzie Center. Join us for one or all three. Tours are best suited for ages 13 and up.

Pre-registration is required; cost is \$5 per person.

- Tuesday, June 9, 6-8 pm: *Nocturnal Adaptations*
- Tuesday, July 7, 6-8 pm: *Apex Predators*
- Tuesday, August 11, 6-8 pm: *Wildlife Enrichment*

Archery Skills Day:

Spend the afternoon at MacKenzie learning the art of archery. Instruction and equipment provided. Best suited for ages 7 and up. Free drop-in program.

- Saturday, July 18, 2015 1-4pm



Visit our [events page](#) to learn more about our summer events or to register for the wildlife series.

WILDLIFE: MAKING IMPROVEMENTS Kyle Coker, Wildlife Lead

Spring has brought on some big changes to the MacKenzie Center Wildlife Area. We brought in a young, non-releasable red fox in January. Our old bear cub enclosure was used to house the young fox until we were comfortable introducing him to our resident 2 year old red fox. This enclosure has been many different things over the past few years: exercise yard for

some of our smaller mammals and home for our young whitetail doe. We decided that it would make a stellar fox enclosure, and in doing so we have made what is arguably the biggest quality of life upgrade our resident foxes, badger, and skunk have seen. In moving the foxes we freed up their old enclosure for the badger, which is about double the size of his old

enclosure, the skunk was then moved into the old badger



enclosure giving him about double the space as well. We have also given our lynx more outdoor space by removing the doors from their outdoor yard to what used to be the cougar yard; we will be removing the fencing fabric in the summer. The enclosure work never ends here at MacKenzie, we are always trying to make things better for our residents.

VOLUNTEERS: MAKING A DIFFERENCE Ruth Ann Lee, Education Co-Lead

Interested in joining the volunteer team at the MacKenzie Center? Join other individuals that give their time to help make the Center successful. Volunteers generously donate thousands of hours in total, each year. They help in a variety of ways to reach the goals of providing quality environmental education and outdoor skills programs to youth and adults. Working alongside the staff to assist with teaching, maintenance, facility needs and an assortment of other tasks, they find their niche. Each task

small or large, up-front or behind the scenes makes a difference.

Volunteering at the MacKenzie Center can be a great opportunity to share your talents and learn something new while doing meaningful work. Socialize, enjoy the company of other volunteers all while making a difference and having fun. Training and direction are always provided as needed and you'll soon find your niche as well. Mowing, cleaning, invasive removal, teaching, and events

are just a few examples of projects you can assist with. We often have monthly work days hosted by the Friends of the MacKenzie Center to get a lot done!

Looking ahead, we will need many volunteers for our Maple Education Program for the entire month of March. Come be part of Maple! Contact us if you are interested in volunteering. Call us at 608-635-8105 or email at dnrmackenziecenter@wi.gov.

Together we make a difference!

Visit us at dnr.wi.gov Search 'MacKenzie'

EDUCATION: GROWING STRONG

Chrystal Seeley-Schreck, Education Co-Lead

The education program has had a strong 2015 so far, already serving over 2050 youth. Our field trip slots are filling fast, so call today! As we continue to grow, our internship program has expanded to help us meet our growing needs. The MacKenzie Center now hosts interns year-round, with

two wildlife interns and one education intern in the summer and one education intern throughout the school year. We asked our 2014-2015 school year education intern to give the inside scoop on interning at the MacKenzie Center. Check out her thoughts below.



MACKENZIE CENTER

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INSIDE A MACKENZIE INTERNSHIP

Jina Schoenborn, 2014-15 Education Intern

Being an intern at the MacKenzie Center this past school year will be one of my most favorite memories as a college student. I aspire to pursue a career in environmental education after graduation, so I chose to apply to MacKenzie's education department internship to help broaden my skills and learn about the structure of the Department of Natural Resources. Some of the highlights of my time as an intern would definitely have to be the maple program and learning how to tap a tree, giving wildlife tours, and getting to work with Chrystal, Ruth Ann, and Roxanne; the wonderful women on the

education team. I am really proud of the experiences that I have gained at MacKenzie that I am able to take elsewhere into my professional career. After graduation, I have a summer job at Springbrook Nature Center in Fridley, MN as a youth program naturalist! I am very excited to get started, though I will miss the MacKenzie Center and all of the people that I have gotten to know over the past year. For any interns lucky enough to spend their summer or semester here; try to do as much as you can within the center! The property has so much to offer and has many opportunities to try a bunch of different



things and discover what you are passionate about. Finally, I just want to say thank you to everyone at the MacKenzie Center whom have made me feel welcome during my internship. You are all truly genuine people and I will miss being here after graduation. Good luck with everything, and I'll see you around!

FACILITIES & GROUNDS

Steven Kaylor, Facilities and Grounds Lead

I am very happy to be on staff at the MacKenzie Center leading the Buildings and Grounds program, working with a great team of staff. In the two short months I've been here, I have already had the pleasure of experiencing the awesome Maple Program and Maple Fest, met and worked with dedicated Friends of MacKenzie members and other volunteers. I grew up near Poynette and have always enjoyed the MacKenzie Center/State Game Farm and what they represent. Some of my hobbies include hunting, hiking, working with people, spending time with my black lab and playing har-

monica. The center is beautiful and I am excited to continue making improvements on the property and to see what the future holds; starting with the MOHEE youth expo scheduled in May. I am very pleased to be a part of the MacKenzie Team and look forward to building a long lasting relationship with the property and our many visitors.



THANK YOU MAPLE SPONSORS!

These sponsors generously donated to the Friends of the MacKenzie Center for this year's annual Maple Festival :

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