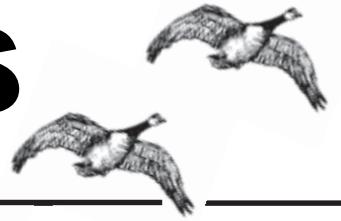




Refuge News



Seney National Wildlife Refuge

Fall 2007

2007 Volunteer of the Year

Claudia Slater has been chosen as the 2007 Seney National Wildlife Refuge (SNWR) Volunteer of the Year. Since 2002 she has volunteered more than 1,730 hours of her time in helping numerous events and people.



Claudia Slater

“I was surprised, but also pleased and humbled to receive this honor,” said Slater. “I was unaware of how many hours I had accomplished because I enjoy it so much.”

Slater, originally from Chicago, has been visiting Seney on a yearly basis since 1969. In 2001 she moved to Curtis with her late husband, Weldon, and a year

later they signed up to volunteer at SNWR.

“It wasn’t a very hard decision for us. We wanted to volunteer at Seney because we both really enjoyed wildlife and loved the outdoors,” said Slater.

In 2002, Slater became the manager of the Seney Visitor Center Bookstore, a task hardly deemed “easy.”

As bookstore manager for the Seney Natural History Association, Slater receives a small monetary stipend, a

minimal amount for all of the time and efforts she puts into her job.

Slater spends hours continually discovering and researching new books that cover topics pertinent to the Refuge, while still providing Seney visitors with great deals on bookstore items. Her useful skills in trouble-shooting and problem-solving were consistently put to the test this summer as a cash register operator and trainer.

Besides being the bookstore manager, Slater has helped with special events, including providing programs at Seney Scout Day. She also adds color to the office with her lively and bright attire.

“I don’t feel that I do more than most other volunteers,” said Slater. “It’s so easy to come here and volunteer my time. It’s really an honor,” she added.

A Memorable Summer Visitor



Seney NWR Park Ranger Jen McDonough was surprised one August afternoon when she found a goat tied to a car in the Visitor Center parking lot. As it turned out, the goat was being used by its owners as a “pack animal” to carry supplies and food on long hikes. If you think that sounds unusual, the real mystery was figuring out how two adults, one child and a big goat could fit in such a tiny car!

Photo Contest Winners Announced

Seney National Wildlife Refuge in cooperation with Seney Natural History Association is pleased to announce the winners of the 2007 Seney Amateur Photo Contest.

78 photo entries were placed on display at the Refuge Visitor Center during the months of September and October, and were enjoyed by over 4,000 visitors. Throughout the two months visitors voted for their favorite photographs in each category – recreation, landscape and wildlife.

Second and third place winners include: Wildlife - Dave Christiansen (second place) and Patrick Foote (third place); Recreation - Tirzah Harter (second place) and Jan Barrett (third place); and Landscape - Cassandra Roose (second place) and Patrick Foote (third place).



ABOVE: Winning landscape photo was taken by Jim Lynch of Watervliet, Michigan.



LEFT: Winning recreation photo was taken by Michelle Edwards of Otter Lake, Michigan.



RIGHT: Winning wildlife photo was taken by Joel Flasschoen of Mentone, California.

Did You Know... Woodcock migrate from their breeding grounds in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan between October and November. Most of these woodcock will end up in southern Louisiana and southern Missouri. Woodcock migrate based on food availability. They probe the ground for worms, but as the ground freezes, they start migrating south.

Seney Scout Day 2007

Sunny skies and breezy weather made for an enjoyable day for the 148 scouts that attended Seney Scout Day 2007 on Sept. 29. Scout Day has been a well-loved tradition at the Refuge for many years and each year it requires the help of many SNHA volunteers and Refuge staff. This year 48 volunteers helped with the event.



ABOVE: A Cub Scout admires his completed wind turbine.

15 scout sessions included old favorites such as building bird houses and learning first aid. New sessions included lessons on recycling, knot tying and calling wildlife.

One of the highlights of Scout Day 2007 was "Power Rangers," a session that focused on renewable energy.



Scouts were able to make their own wind turbines, try out a model solar car and learn about energy consumption.

RIGHT: SNHA volunteer Dean "Fitz" Fitzgerald helps a Cub Scout tie a knot.

BELOW: SNHA treasurer Nancy Strawe holds a bird house steady as a Cub Scout pounds in a nail.



Photos courtesy of Carol Campbell and George Phinney

Memories from the Past

The Seney Natural History Association (SNHA) has funded over 75 interns since 1993. In celebration of the SNHA's 20th Anniversary, we tracked down some of those interns to find out where they ended up and how they remembered their Seney experience.

"I remember canoeing after trumpeter swans with Joann Keffer, picnics with the staff, Laurie's potato salad, hearing Richard play his guitar, the dead mouse in my boot, seeing my first moose and, of course, trivia night at Pickleman's Pub.

-Ronda DeCaire (1992 intern), Environmental Education Director at Elkhart Environmental Center, Indiana.

"One of my favorite memories was going to the drive-in-theater in Manistique with all of the interns. We all curled up in sleeping bags and blankets in the back of pick-up trucks."

-Tighe Teets (1993 intern), refuge law enforcement officer at Texas Chenier Plain National Wildlife Refuge.

"Who could forget the best volunteers in the world, placed in the heart of the U.P."

- Susan Owens (2005 intern), naturalist at Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming.

"I learned a ton about wildlife, management and plants - lots of plants. I also loved the opportunity to work with rail banding. One time I drove home in the middle of the night to Munising in pants covered in mud. It was great!"

- Nicole Lasak (2006 intern), currently working towards a science teaching certificate at Northern Michigan University.

Of Special Note

In the August 2007 issue of Refuge News, the article titled "A Guest's Perspective" was written by Jill Webster. We apologize for the omission.

Former intern and Park Ranger Emily (Schwam) Koren and her husband, Chris (also a former intern), have a new addition to their family. Victor Worthy Koren was born on Oct. 16, 2007, in Marquette, MI.