

# MAC MATTERS

## MACKENZIE CENTER NEWS

Outdoor Skills and Environmental Education

SUMMER/FALL  
2015



## UPCOMING EVENTS

[Haunted Hayride](#): October 30 & 31, 6:30-9:30 pm, \$5

[Learn to Hunt Events](#): Each fall the MacKenzie Center hosts educational events to introduce Wisconsin's hunting heritage to those wishing to learn to hunt. These Learn to Hunt events sometimes involve hunting on the MacKenzie Center property. To ensure the safety of all of our visitors, the full MacKenzie Center property will be closed to the public during those days when hunting occurs on property. This year we will be closed on **September 20 and 27; October 3 and 4; and December 6, 11, 12, and 13.**



*KODA campers wrapped up a two week stay at MacKenzie by helping remove invasive buckthorn and garlic mustard this summer.*

## MACKENZIE CENTER'S ANNUAL HAUNTED HAY RIDE

Ruth Ann Lee, Education Co-Lead



Mark your calendars for Friday, October 30th and Saturday, October 31st, 2015 for this Annual Halloween Event.

The Hay Ride welcomes thousands of visitors each year to celebrate Halloween

with a spooky ride through the woods, a bonfire, popcorn, hot chocolate and s'mores. Rides run from 6:30pm to 9:30pm both nights. Cost is \$5 per person over the age of 3.

Want to do more than take a ride? Lots of volunteers are needed to assure a fun, safe and entertaining event for our visitors. Volunteers are needed to assist the Friends of the MacKenzie Center and the MacKenzie Center staff to organize, create and staff spooky stations along

the Hay Ride route. Stations in the past have included witches, zombies, pond monsters, a headless horseman, and other fun Halloween themes. You can volunteer to create a station or be an "actor." Interested individuals can contact the MacKenzie Center at: 608-635-8105 or [dnrmackenziecenter@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dnrmackenziecenter@wisconsin.gov).

## FACILITIES & GROUNDS

Steven Kaylor, Facilities and Grounds Lead

It has been a busy couple of months for the Mackenzie grounds and facilities crew. In the past few months we have coordinated the installation of natural gas to the property which will drastically reduce heating costs in the winter months to come. Mackenzie Center's education pond has undergone a transformation in the past few weeks, going from leaking to a whole new look. Please swing by and see the improvements; it will be completed by September 10<sup>th</sup>. To help with the summer crunch around the

grounds, we brought on some temporary summer workers. I would like to thank Steven McDonald and Jay Kimberly for their awesome attitudes and their great work ethic helping with tree trimming and general spruce-up of the property. Their work can be seen at the Badger Den's wind break walk between the parking lots, in the wild life area, as well as many other areas. I would also like to extend a special thank you to all the volunteers who have helped with great improvements property wide. So please stop by and

## KUDOS FROM THE FIELD

*Feedback on the MacKenzie*

*Summer Wildlife Series:*

"GREAT presentation last night!! Thanks so much to Ruth Ann, Kyle *and all the critters*. My boys REALLY enjoyed it. Was really great to be able to see the predators so closely and esp. their eating behaviors... Thanks again for a very special evening."

- Marcia Hartwig

enjoy all the things we have to offer from the picnic area to the wildlife area, we look forward to seeing you all year long.

## EDUCATION

*Chrystal Seeley-Schreck, Education Co-Lead*

The MacKenzie Center Education program had a wonderful summer with programs for KODA Camp Midwest, Madison School & Community Recreation camps, Operation Fresh Start, Madison Audubon and international students from China. Our summer education intern, Kara Weiss did an excellent job teaching, assisting on many projects and redesigning two visitor bulletin boards. We will miss her greatly! Now we are gearing up for a busy fall with returning groups and new visitors. Our overnight programs are full for the fall but we still have spots open for fall day programs and winter overnights. Spread the word!



**MACKENZIE CENTER**

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*Summer Interns:  
Kara, Rachel and Sarah*

## WILDLIFE

*Kyle Coker, Wildlife Lead*

With summer drawing to a close we wanted to put the spotlight on our wonderful summer interns, Rachel and Sarah. Every summer the wildlife area interns are tasked to come up with a personal project to complete by the end



of their internship. Previous projects have varied greatly; from fire hose hammocks, to enrichment and research. Both of our interns this year decided to do construction projects to enhance two of our animal enclosures.

After doing some research on red foxes, Rachel decided that she wanted to add some vertical space and shade to their enclosure by building a structure. The interns and the rest of the wildlife team worked together with one of our fantastic facilities staff, Britt Downing, to source all of the materials directly from the property. The project took a day and a half to finish with a lot of teamwork and help from Britt. Rachel operated many new tools in the process of the project and had to think quickly with some structural redesign. In the end the foxes were immediately drawn to the new structure, and continue to use it regularly.

Sarah chose to build shelf platforms in the outdoor portion of our lynx enclosure. We used what materials we had left from Rachel's project and

gathered whatever else we needed from the property. Once again Britt was on hand to help with building and installation. This project was a little more complicated as we were working

with a lot of angles so we drew heavily on Britt's construction experience and completed this project in two and a half days.



Sarah too ran many new tools and learned a lot of new skills during this project. The lynx started using their new space as soon as it was opened to them and it has become one of their favorite spots.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

*Roxanne Burgard, Group Facilitator*

The MacKenzie Center is grateful for donations that come our way. Since our fiscal year began on July 1, 2015, we received a beautiful new upright freezer from Milton School District. The Friends of MacKenzie have generously donated materials, tools, lodge furniture, funds

and countless volunteer hours to the Center. We have also received monetary gift donations from the Diamond Center and the Heckendorf family. Thank you all for these gifts and for your support of the MacKenzie Center.

