

the Sharp Tale

The newsletter of the Friends of Crex, Inc.
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Spring 2021



Introduction

By: Paul Stoll

Oh, what a year! Because of COVID, there have been no usual gatherings at the Crex Meadows Visitor Center, we built a new mess hall near the Crex center that we can't yet use, I'm unable to bring friends to visit Crex, and there have been no education programs. And, when my wife and I finally did visit the wildlife area this spring, the roadsides and parking areas seemed to have a lot more trash deposited than usual.

But things will get better. In the meantime, this newsletter is full of tales old and new that demonstrate how Crex is special to a great many people. Please enjoy my story and the others. And continue to look forward to a trip to enjoy the Crex center and the wildlife area yet this year. Please don't forget your annual dues, as the work we do continues. And bring along a garbage bag when you do come to visit!

Something Old, Something New

By: Paul Stoll

It's been a long time, but I'm kind of a creature of habit ...

In 1988, when I became a Friends of Crex life member, it was mostly because of ducks and the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area. My first dog, a yellow Lab named Kitty, had developed serious kidney issues the previous year. She was just 7, but the prognosis was disheartening. I was familiar with Crex Meadows but didn't visit much back then. But we hunted there. Crex was closer to the Twin Cities area than most of the other places in western Wisconsin that my dog and I had hunted. In 1987, we scouted Crex and planned a stress-free opening day of the duck season. That day, we bagged a couple of wood ducks.

But the miracle of "the Meadow" was that the exertion of this hunting exercise was supposed to be bad for Kitty. It had the opposite effect. And thus began my long

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relationship with Crex Meadows and its wetlands and ponds.

I became somewhat of an expert on “getting around” the Crex wildlife area. I like to believe I now know every nook and cranny, although I’m reasonably certain many of you could show me places I don’t yet know. Once upon a time, I took a friend’s dad sharptail hunting on Crex. His response to my friend was, “That guy knows everywhere in there!”

I’ve occasionally hunted the Fish Lake Wildlife Area but seldom have I hunted Amsterdam Sloughs Wildlife Area. After ice-out in the spring, I try to show up to greet waterfowl returning to the area, and it’s done almost exclusively at Crex. I know some things about Fish Lake, and I’ve shot at a grouse or two there, as well as at a woodcock, when my timing was right.

Last fall, I decided that if I avoided contact with other I could go to the Glacial Lakes-Grantsburg properties (Crex Meadows, Fish Lake, Amsterdam Sloughs) one day, weekly. I committed to Fish Lake and spent

five to six hours there each week, stomping around new places. I found some ponds I’d never hunted, and they had ducks on them. I played “shoot and release” with ducks and plenty of ruffed grouse (that means I mostly missed). I put on a lot of miles and discovered a new area of beauty and adventure.

Next year, I’ll expand upon my places to visit more frequently. And based on Tim’s story, Amsterdam Sloughs deserves some attention, too. In another 33 years, I’ll know all three of the wildlife areas like the back of my hand, and I will have had great times in learning more about them.

This is preaching to the choir, but we are extremely lucky to be a part of such a spectacular and expansive area set aside for wildlife. Thank you to all who have supported the Friends of Crex, and thanks to all who have worked to make better the treasures that are our wildlife areas.

Now, is there someone out there who can give me shooting lessons?

Farewell Chet Anderson

By: Jim Hoefler

We lost another of our long-term volunteers suddenly last fall. Chet Anderson began volunteering for the Friends of Crex back in the 1990’s, maybe even the 1980’s, and remained active until the end. He spent many weekends manning the former, and current visitor centers, worked at all the special events, rarely missed a trumpeter swan round-up, and helped in many other ways. He was an avid “ricer” and donated many pounds of rice to the Friends of Crex.

Friends of Crex was not the only organization to

benefit from Chet’s efforts. He helped several non-profits in the St. Croix Falls area and his passion for hiking led him to help with the Ice Age Trail and other hiking organizations. Many individuals also received Chet’s assistance at one time or another.

Chet Anderson was one of those selfless people that every organization needs. People like him are in short supply in this world and hard to replace. Friends of Crex along with various other organizations will greatly miss him. Thank You Chet!

Mission of the Friends of Crex:

To support and assist the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources with wildlife management and wildlife conservation education and outreach at the Crex Meadows, Fish Lake, and Amsterdam Sloughs Wildlife Areas.

From Your President– A Look Back

By: Dave Evenson

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I'm going to share with you some memories of Crex over the past 37 years since I came to this part of the world as a DNR Area Wildlife Manager. As I'm now an old geezer, or at least standing on the threshold of geezardom, it will be a rambling collection of items.

When I got here, there was no Interpretive Center, but Jim Evrard had been drawing plans and cajoling folks for a few years already. Jim Hoefler and Paul Kooiker had been on Crex staff for a few years each, and I remember attending some of those first formative meetings that led to a formation of FOC, back in the days when Friends groups were not as ubiquitous as they are today. I became a charter life member, I suppose one of the first, back when a life membership cost 100 bucks. Best deal ever.

As Area Manager, I had no wildlife area that was my own baby, so I was happy to get field time at any property who would let me do a project. I'd gone through land surveying school in the army, so was pleased to be able to survey a few small runoff ponds, on Amsterdam Sloughs and Fish Lake.

Fire. It was the practice in the day, maybe still is, to have the visiting dignitary run the drip torch. Maybe I looked the part of a walker, long-legged and lean, back then. It was good duty, always active, you could see what you were accomplishing, and not as smoky as the challenging job the technicians and Fire Control equipment operators had in watching for spot fires. In retrospect, I was a terrible burner, too aggressive and not nearly as aware of the situation as I should have been. Fortunately I had a great burn boss in Paul Kooiker who had both the experience and an almost intuitive knowledge of fire behavior. I do remember well one spot fire that we captured, but not by a lot. I was torching back fire where the road was straight for quite

ways before it turned slightly, and then it was actually getting to be flank fire. Meanwhile the day was warming up, of course, and I was blithely lighting along at the same pace. Wrong! Anyway, Paul or Jim usually held me in check, and I hope I learned a bit before I turned in my Nomex.

Wild rice. Twern't there back then. Today I return to Crex each fall to pick of the bounty of our rice fields, but I also remember the joy of paddling through flowages throwing hundreds of pounds and dollars worth of rice out of a canoe by the handfuls, thanks to GLIFWC program.

Hunting. I've had a lot of good duck hunting trips on Crex, and even a few good duck hunting trips where I came home with a duck or two. Those I hunt with know I'm pretty slow at getting gun on target. And a sharptail or two, back when they were just a regular season bird.

Prairie flowers. I didn't get in a lot of Karner's Blue Butterfly surveys, enough to enjoy the beauty of lupine and butterflies, not enough to suffer the heat, insect bites and sunburn of the regulars. I'll finish this ramble with a story from way back. It was June 15, our wedding anniversary, and I was out on Crex in the glory of wild flowers. I hadn't thought to buy a gift before I took off for Crex, and as often happens I was late getting home (no cell phone to call and let Shirley Anne know, of course), so I picked the finest bouquet of Crex beauty I could find and pulled in after dinner time. That was one bouquet that was not appreciated! She forgave me then, as she does often, to this day, but it was a cold shoulder dinner.



USGS Crex Ground Water Study
By: Kyle Anderson, GLG Property Supervisor

As you may recall from a previous newsletter article, in 2019 the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources hired the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to conduct a groundwater study on the west side of Crex Meadows Wildlife Area and nearby private properties around Dike 6 & Erickson Flowages. The objective was to determine if water levels on flowages in Crex are affecting groundwater on neighboring properties.

I'm happy to report the peer-reviewed published report titled "Assessment of Groundwater Trends near Crex Meadows, Wisconsin" is available for viewing at <https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/sir20205149>,

or simply type the title of the report into your preferred search engine. There was a similar test conducted by the USGS in the 1980s as well. That report is available for reading at <https://pubs.usgs.gov/wri/1989/4129/report.pdf>

On April 15th the USGS hosted a virtual meeting (via Microsoft Teams) for the public to hear and see the USGS explain the results of the study. The meeting was scheduled to be recorded so it can be viewed later if you can't watch it live. When the meeting link is available, we'll post it on the Crex Meadows website: www.crexmeadows.org.

Friends of Crex Membership Renewal Form

MEMBER INFORMATION New Member _____ Renewal _____ Gift Membership _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

(Mailing lists and emailing list are not shared with other organizations. They are only used to send updates on wildlife and other happenings at Crex Meadows.)

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL	1 Year	2 Year	5 Year
Individual:	\$15.00	\$25.00	\$60.00
Family:	\$22.00	\$35.00	\$80.00
Life:	One time charge of \$350.00 OR \$120.00/year for 3 years.		

Follow Us!

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 **Crex Meadows State Wildlife Area**

Recreational Use of Wildlife Properties

By: Kyle Anderson, GLG Property Supervisor

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, hunting & fishing license sales and recreational use of public properties have increased across the nation, including properties in the Glacial Lake Grantsburg Work Unit. Visitor Services Associate Emily Kowalke, a position funded by Friends of Crex (FOC) donations, has spent a portion of her time during the pandemic creating and updating maps to enhance your recreational experience on Crex Meadows. The updated maps accurately display DNR trails, flowage names, and newly acquired parcels (purchased largely due to FOC efforts). We recently order 10,000 pre-folded maps that will be available around the county and near the front door of the visitor center. We've also ordered large aluminum Crex Meadows maps that will be displayed at kiosks at the visitor center, Regal Overlook, and Rest Area C. Now that the Crex Meadows map is complete, Emily is updating maps of hiking trails and property maps at Fish Lake and Amsterdam Sloughs Wildlife Areas.

To promote bowhunting and the sport of archery, Crex staff began constructing a 20-target archery course located along the trail behind the Crex Wildlife Education Center. We partnered with the DNR R3 pro-

gram, which was created to Recruit, Retain, & Reactivate hunters, trappers, and fishermen. We cleared 20 shooting lanes for bale targets. Along the shooting lanes, you'll have the option to shoot from a variety of locations, up to 40-yard distances. Initially, we'll display paper targets but hope to have 3D targets to enhance your shooting experience. Toward the end of the course, we plan to have three different shooting platforms that will resemble shooting targets from an elevated tree stand. The Education Center owns introductory bows and arrows if you would like to try archery before you purchase equipment. We've had a lot of interest in the archery course since its inception. If you'd like to know more about the course, donate money toward the cause, or volunteer to work on the project, email Lauren or me.

In addition to the archery course, we're also adding class 5 gravel to the trail behind the education center. The trail upgrades will enhance user experience while aiding in mobility for disabled patrons. We also have a development project to level the boardwalk that spans the marsh behind the visitor center - please use caution until we fix the walkway.

Adopt-A-Trail Application

Help us Keep our Wildlife Areas Clean!

Name(s): _____ E-mail: _____ Phone Number: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Please choose which wildlife area you would prefer to clean up:

Crex Meadows Fish Lake Amsterdam Sloughs

**** Once you choose a wildlife area, we will contact you with a road/parking lot that you'll be assigned to.**

I, _____, pledge to monitor and maintain my area at least twice per season (once a month is preferred), and make regular reports to staff at Crex Meadows.

Signature: _____

Grousin' II: Back to Amsterdam Sloughs

By: Tim Spielman



It had been several years since I'd hunted ruffed grouse at Amsterdam Sloughs. In fact, the last time I'd hunted there, my black Lab, Mo, was leading the way. There's a new band leader now – Liza, another black Lab –

who's young enough still to be absorbing all that bird hunting can rain down upon a hunting dog.

In September, Liza and I drove the short distance to Amsterdam Sloughs – part of a week of adventure that was slated also to include duck hunting at Crex Meadows and bowhunting deer from my backyard stands. It so happened to be a cloudy afternoon when we pulled over and parked at Amsterdam.

When last I'd hunted grouse there, that day, too, was overcast. The plan then was to walk a "loop," of sorts. We'd hike the edges of the woods in a rather oblong jaunt that eventually would lead us back to the trail upon which the hunt began. That was the plan...

After a couple of hours, the sun that I could not see likely was setting quickly behind a mass of altostratus clouds. A visible western-setting sun as my guide would've been useful, indeed.

But we kept walking, Mo and I. Eventually, having burned off lots of human and Lab energy and having never encountered a ruffed grouse and thus, having never fired a shot, we came upon a trail. I knew it wasn't the one we sought. But at least I now knew where

we were. Small comfort, poor navigational skills notwithstanding.

There so happened to be a couple of fellow grouse hunters parked at the end of that trail. Surprised to see me, they asked from where I'd come. When I told them, one of them responded, "That's a long ways away."

"I know."

Mo and I decided our best bet was to follow the dirt road a couple of miles back to our truck. As we shuffled away, me a bit embarrassed, the dog unfazed, I heard a shot come from where the duo had begun their hunt. Well, at least they'd found a bird and took a shot, I thought. I'll admit, I wasn't in the mood to run back and offer my congratulations.

This fall, on what would be Liza's first grouse hunt, the "master" in a blaze-orange vest wasn't thrilled to be taking the pup grousin' on an overcast day. But the weather was mild, and at least the sun wouldn't be in my eyes should a shot present itself.

I'm not a good grouse hunter. Ruffed grouse hang out in the woods, and they prefer, I'm told, young aspen stands and similar habitat. There were no such stands, or big woods, for that matter, where I grew up. The closest relative of the grouse that I encountered in my youth was the Hungarian partridge. And the Hun's behavior and habitat preferences certainly are unlike those of the ruffed's.

Through my work, I'd read often about how to be an effective ruffed grouse hunter. I'd read about what habitat ruffed grouse prefer (Amsterdam has lots of that habitat) and I'd read about their sometimes erratic behavior. But I'd also read about building a garage, and you certainly wouldn't want to hire me for that job.

So, Liza and I were learning on the job, as it were. She has instincts. I really don't. Three times at

Amsterdam that day – as we circled the edge of a wetland – she flushed grouse. Three times I wasn't even quick enough to pull up my 16 gauge for a shot. Heck, I didn't even *see* one bird. I just *heard* it.

But that's one of the many allures of grouse hunting, I've been told and am experiencing – the challenge. I've not yet come to accept that sticks poking you in the face along the way is part of the hunt.

Liza seemed to be enjoying herself. I was, too. Of all the many scents of the outdoors that are too complex for a simple hunter like me to describe, the smell of autumn in the woods – strangely, the smell of death of all that was alive and green during summer – is my favorite. Perhaps it's the association between scent and doing what I hold dear.

After we'd circled the wetland, we set off through a section of hardwood forest. Hopes weren't high – I mean, what I'd read was that the best grouse hunting occurs in young forest, not old.

But we flushed one more specimen and I could

tell Liza quickly was learning the new game.

Me? Well, I'd ventured slightly outside my comfort zone, out there in the midst of Amsterdam Sloughs where I once was temporarily lost. After a U-shaped march through the hardwood area, dog and man emerged – the former not quite sure in which direction to travel to his mode of transportation, the latter not caring about much of anything except that the hunt might be over.

But this wasn't several years ago. Besides another day with no grouse in the bag, things had changed.

I pulled out my smartphone, looked at where I was in relation to the "marked" spot on an app that identified the temporary parking location of an old Chevy pickup, and set off in that direction.

I paused only to snap a few photos of a regal 1-year-old pup doing what she was bred to do on a beautiful day in a beautiful place.

I could've been lost for a while and not have minded one bit.

Help Keep our Wildlife WILD

By: Lauren Finch

Spring and summer are fun times of the year in the world of wildlife. Spring migration is a great time to see many different species of birds, and late spring and summer are great times to see baby animals! With that said, viewers also have a big responsibility to our wildlife in these times of the year.

"Wild animals are valued by many, and it's important to observe them at a respectful distance to keep them wild and allow for their life in the wild to continue," says the WI DNR. There are times when you may think that you should intervene, but please take a step back and further evaluate the situation before getting involved. If you have questions, or are unsure if you should help out an animal, be sure to call a wildlife professional BEFORE you act.

A perfect example of this is when you are out enjoying nature and come across a baby animal that appears to be alone. You may assume that this animal is orphaned, but that may not be the case. Mothers in the wild sometimes leave their babies alone for a reason, and will return for them at a later time. A general rule of thumb is that **a baby's best chance of survival is with it's mother**, and we should do everything that we can to make sure they are not separated.

To learn about how to tell if an animal is truly orphaned, or to learn more about keeping our wildlife wild, visit the WI DNR website:
<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/orphan>

December Crex Grouse

By: Mike Cole

Ruffed grouse hunting on Crex was very good in 2020. With December mostly free of snow, the fun continued right up until the official end of the season. My family of Shorthairs approved and had a ball with the whole thing.

This story is about a mid-December hunt with just a dusting of snow on the ground. It took place somewhere on Crex, in a spot we had hunted a few times earlier this season. We had always moved a bird or two there, but nothing like we did this morning. I chose Hattie (the veteran) and Hilda (the rookie) as the dogs to hunt this time and after strapping on their e-collars (so we can find each other if one of us becomes lost) their tails signaled ready to go.

The first bird came from a non-emphatic point by Hattie. She does this a lot, before realizing she is smelling old scent and moving on. Plus we were only 25 yards from the truck, so I was not expecting a bird. No matter, a grouse thundered out and I forgot to shoot.

A few minutes later, a second bird flushed wild from somewhere ahead on the trail, flying directly at me. I had to duck to keep from getting winged in the face, then turn and missed badly on the straight-away shot. We had only left the truck five minutes before.

Number three held well for both dogs locked on point twenty yards off the trail in a popple thicket. I waded in and tried to dislodge the bird. Nothing moved and both dogs remained statue-like. After a few minutes of that, I gave up and returned to the trail. Just as I stepped back onto the trail, the grouse flushed behind me, meaning I had almost stepped on it twice. My shot blew some branches from a tree two feet behind the bird.

I was starting to realize that the birds were in there thick and even half-hearted points had the potential for a bird. Grouse hunters know these things come in bunches, but so do the misses. I was firmly mired in a slump and the rest of the hunt proved it. I won't bore you with the details of the other four birds. Suffice it to say they were a mixture of misses (sometimes with both barrels), a case of too-surprised-to-shoot and my classic "flip the safety off on my 870" except that I was not using my 870 on that day and this gun has a much different safety, so when I pulled the trigger absolutely nothing happened. That portion of the hunt was filled with me laughing (at myself) and an appreciation of the situation, the day and these great birds.

The hunt took a somber turn. After that first hour and a half, I decided that since the grouse were so active, we should try another trail a hundred yards or so west. This one felt different somehow and not just because grouse were not jetting every which way. These woods seems quieter, moodier. I should have



known what was up when I saw an eagle land fifty yards ahead. Upon arriving where the eagle had set down, I found a freshly-killed doe, about half eaten. The body was not warm, but fresh enough that it was still pliable. Maybe my tramping around and shooting just to the west earlier had disturbed the wolves. At any rate, I called the dogs back and headed to the truck, imagining eyes upon us. I have never had a wolf encounter while bird hunting on Crex, but this was the second time I

know of where I have interrupted a feast like that.

We finished with seven grouse finds in the first hour-and-a-half. Several shots were taken, no grouse harvested, and the three of us had a whole lot of fun (except for that last part). December grouse hunting on Crex can be that way.

Mental Health Minute
The Benefits of Spring on Your Mood
By: Sarah Busch

Spring has sprung! At least according to the calendar. This is Wisconsin so we could still get a snowstorm in mid-April. But overall, the weather is certainly warming up, and the snow has melted. Rain is falling instead of snow as I write this. Birds that flew south are slowly starting to return. More critters are seen on my daily commute to work. The frozen waters in the area are once again open and flowing. We find ourselves craving the warm temperatures and sunshine, taking in the longer days and opportunities to get outdoors. We start to feel hopeful and look forward to even warmer summer days. Ahh... spring.

The feeling of hope that tends to come with spring is not just something in our imaginations. Research has shown that spring brings with it many things that increase people's moods and improves their overall mental health. In the northern states, spring brings even greater benefits, especially if there was a long, particularly cold winter.

The warmer weather and increased sunshine that comes with spring have been shown to improve people's mood. Staying indoors, with less daylight during the winter decreases a person's vitamin D levels,

something that has a direct impact on mood. Low levels of vitamin D have been shown to increase risk of depression. By contrast, increased exposure to sunlight, something that naturally helps our bodies produce vitamin D, lowers the risk of depression and other mood disorders. Getting outside and being exposed to the longer days in spring improves your mood naturally.

Spring brings with it a sense of new. Plants that were dormant over the winter, start to grow again. Trees bud, flowers bloom, the grass starts to green. Baby animals are seen all over. The songs of birds returning fills the air. This renewal of life connects with humans, bringing a sense of starting over, refreshing oneself after a stagnant winter. We might find ourselves with more motivation to do things, especially outdoors as the weather warms. The urge to spring clean and get rid of what is not needed gives us a sense of order and accomplishment. All of this spring renewal increases our mood, and has a direct impact on our mental health.

Spring tends to also bring more opportunities for social interactions. People are more likely to be out walking in the neighborhood or going to social events.

Connecting with others is important to our mental health. Spring naturally provides more connections in various ways.

So as spring takes hold, take time to get out and enjoy it. Get outside. Look for the newness of life popping up around you. Bask in the sunshine and

longer hours of daylight. Clean out that space full of unneeded things. Say hi to the neighbors on your walk around the block. You will feel better. And your mental health will thank-you.

Photography on Crex Meadows

By: Mark Nicklawske



Photo Credits: Top left: Terry Mortier, Bottom left: Phil Sinn, Middle: Gina Ward King, Top right: Phil Sinn, Bottom right: Terry Mortier.



Photographers share Crex beauty on social media

Photographing the great outdoors and its beautiful wildlife has become a major attraction for many as the coronavirus pandemic has wreaked havoc on indoor and large group activities.

The Crex Meadows Camera Club Facebook page and #crexmeadows on Instagram are two easily accessible places where photographers post their beautiful work.

“Seeing all the great photos on social media really makes you appreciate what we have here,” said Friends of Crex Meadows Board member Jennifer Moore.

Nesting eagles, trumpeter swans, busy beavers and the legendary Sandhill Crane migration are major

photo subjects. Stunning sunsets and sunrises, full moons and frosty trees are other popular topics.

“Crex Meadows is a hidden gem,” said Apple Valley, Minnesota-based photographer Phil Sinn. “It’s a place you can explore and enjoy from the comforts of your car as well as hike and see a variety of wildlife, scenic sunrises and meet friendly people.”

Sinn said his favorite photo targets are the Sandhill Cranes that migrate by the thousands through Crex Meadows. In the fall, he heads to Main Dike Road and waits for sunrise. “That’s when the magic begins and the marsh comes to life with the sites and sounds of the Sandhills.”

Hudson, Wis. photographer Terry Mortier said he fell in love with Crex while working on a habitat im-

provement project for the State Youth Conservation Corps. in the 1960s. Now he brings a camera, instead of a shovel, to Crex year round.

“It is difficult to choose a favorite season to shoot at Crex,” he said. “I spend more time at Crex during the late spring/summer wildflower blooms chasing the fascinating diversity of butterflies they attract. My favorite pastime.”

Grantsburg photographer Gina Ward King has been making photos in Crex Meadows for more than

15 years. In March, she photographed early arriving Mergansers and posted a video on the Camera Club Facebook page of mallards swimming at dusk.

“I love shooting in the spring because it is the time when migrating birds return, animals come out of hibernation, baby animals are born and colorful plants and butterflies are everywhere,” she said. “Spring represents a fresh start and is much needed after our long Wisconsin winter.”

Crex Meadows Updates

Things to look forward to when the pandemic ends

With the COVID-19 restrictions that are in place, we have all been out of our normal routines and normal activities. We at Crex are not an exception. We have not been able to have programs or events, public meetings in person, and have not been able to allow anyone to use our facilities. But that does NOT mean there is nothing to do or that nothing has been done. For one thing, we suspect we had a record number of visitors to the property in the last year; if the number of maps taken is any indication of visitor numbers.

In addition, after all the fund raising and construction and delays, the Mess Hall is finally in place. There are some finishing touches that still need to be added, but you can be sure that when the pandemic is over, the Friends of Crex will be hosting a “grand opening” event.

Are you wondering what will be done with the old Mess Hall facility? Well, rest assured we have plans for that building too! DNR staff plan to transform the old building into a game processing center that will be used during our “Hunt for Food” and “Learn to Hunt” events.

In the back 40 behind the Education & Visitor Center we are excited to add an archery course. It will

offer several "stations" with different shots. It will be available for archery fun or to help improve your hunting skills. There will be volunteer opportunities and strict safety protocols. This will offer encouragement for more use by our locals and be an attraction for others.

Inside the visitor center there are some changes coming as well. There is new audio visual equipment in the auditorium, which will be more user-friendly for our volunteers, and will provide more opportunities to show new videos of Crex Meadows. For example, we will be introducing an exciting new video that was filmed in Crex Meadows, which will be available as soon as the Visitor Center re-opens. We are also adding new taxidermy, technology for the gift shop, and will soon be updating the space vacated by the old audio visual equipment.

So, as you see, there's a lot going on still at Crex Meadows. We look forward to getting past this pandemic and opening up our programs and facilities, but in the meantime, come visit the property! Spring migration will be happening until early-mid June, and then summer is time to search for baby animals and wildflowers!

Friends of Crex

102 E Crex Ave

Grantsburg, WI 54840

Thank You!

Donations & New Members

General Fund

\$1,000-\$4,999

Petraske, Gretchen

Levin, Bridget & Ross

Parker Hannifin Foundation

Eloise Anderson

Gail Gilliland

Paul Stoll

Catherine Nelson

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Brickfield Brewing

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In the Memory of Sherwood "Shorty" Johnston

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William & Barbara Urbock

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Preco, Inc.

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\$10,000-\$19,999

Max Malmquist

\$1,000-\$4,999

Kathryn Robinson

Alberta Adams

\$100-\$499

Paul Stoll

Wendy Carlberg

Jim & Stephanie Fox

Matt Spector

Land Fund

\$5,000-\$9,999

Max Malmquist

\$1000-\$4,999

Helen Brackins

Mike Prokosch

Jerry McNally

\$500-\$999

David Evans

\$100-\$499

Michael Pritchard

Jon Bergquist

Scoot & Judy Olsen

Nancy Hammond

\$10-\$99

Stephen Cox

Mess Hall Fund

\$25,000-\$49,999

Farmer's Ind. Telephone Co.

\$5,000-\$9,999

NW WI CEP

\$100-\$499

Susan Isaacson

Paul Stoll

Patrick Meier

Don Anderson

Diana Burlison

New Members

Diane Mundt

Kyle & Melissa Anderson (Life)

Ann Wynia (Life)