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• Election of Board Members
• Refuge Report
President’s Report – Myrna Krueger
Our Mission
The Friends of Sherburne nurture an appreciation for and the conservation of Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge through education, volunteerism and philanthropy.
2020 Friends Fund Part-time Naturalist: Jenny Hengel

- Enable Friends to help sustain refuge nature education programs and experiences for children and adults
- Coordinate Youth Partner School program (winter only in 2020 due to Covid, hopefully coming back in 2021)
- Develop self-guided materials and interpretive kits
- Teach through Facebook Livestream programs

Photos, Video: Bruce Ellingson
Welcome Station is Open!

- Completed upgrades to first stop on Wildlife Drive welcomed visitors
- Thanks to Sue Hix, Dean Kleinhans, Steve Chesney, Steve Karel, Alaina Larkin and Tyler Paulson, many others
- Funded by NFWF & Friends of Sherburne

Photos: Bruce Ellingson
2020 – Wildlife Observation Blind

Construction completed at the Oak Savanna Learning Center
• Signage to be added in 2021
• Thanks to Dean Kleinhans, Steve Karel and refuge staff

Photos: Bruce Ellingson
Other Projects Friends Supported in 2020

• Live animal presentations on Facebook Livestream
• Sandhill Crane Taxidermy

• Youth Photography Contest
• Friends cost-share of new tables at the Learning Center
2020 Advocacy

• Met with staffs of Senator Tina Smith and Congressman Tom Emmer
• Acted with the National Wildlife Refuge Assoc. to advocate for other refuges, Desert NWR and Arctic NWR
• Actively responded to USFWS about Office of Inspector General Audit recommendations on Friends groups
• Congratulations to Friends of Sherburne NWR, chosen by Princeton Area Chamber of Commerce as the 2020 Nonprofit of the Year!
• Thanks to Advocacy Committee: Emy Minzel, Steve Chesney, Sue Hix, Myrna Krueger, Randall Holt-Woehl
Thanks to a team effort, Friends fielded our first independent online fundraiser – Sandhill Celebration

Most successful ever Give to the Max Day

Increase of 45 new members!
Eagle’s Nest Nature Store Goes Online

With the pandemic shutdown, the nature store responded with a refresh of merchandise, curbside pickup and a brand new online nature store.

Hot new items: Naturalist Backpacks for Kids

https://sherburneeaglesneststore.com

Thanks to Sheri Olson for her initiative updating merchandise and building the online store.

Thanks to outgoing Business Manager, Diana Shonyo, as we recruit to replace her position.
Eagle's Nest Nature Store Goes Online

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What’s Ahead 2021

Photo: Bruce Ellingson
Friends Statement on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The Friends of Sherburne NWR is working to become a truly inclusive organization that rejects racism in all its forms and embraces cultural and economic diversity. We want all to feel welcome and safe to visit the refuge.

We all need the beauty and peace that nature and wildlife provide. It is imperative that people of all colors and ethnicity, regardless of religion, gender or ability, are aware of this sanctuary and feel comfortable visiting and connecting with nature.

We understand we need to commit to examining all activities and directing our outreach through a diversity, equity and inclusion perspective. Going forward we pledge to listen and learn what changes we should make so that we reflect, welcome and serve our entire community. We invite your ideas.
2021 Planned Actions: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

• **Outreach**: Reach out and develop contacts in target communities, partner with Urban Bird Collective, help bring individuals to the refuge, bus money, refuge ambassadors and outreach at expos, farmers markets and powwows

• **Mentor**: College scholarship for minority student in natural resources studies

• **Learn**: Hire speakers about how to improve diversity and inclusion

• **Recruit**: Recruit diverse candidates to represent us on the board

• Thanks to Committee members: Randall Holt-Woehl, Emy Minzel, Debbie Russell, Myrna Krueger
2021 – Strategic Planning

We will gather input from members, community leaders and USFWS staff to help shape the plan for the next 5 years

• Make Sherburne a destination for nature enthusiasts and tourists
• Amphitheater and laying the groundwork for a Visitor Center
• Diversity, equity and inclusion
• Growth for people and systems
• Engage new and past board members, community leaders to unite behind platform

Photo: Myrna Krueger
Friends will fund new directional trail signs for Mahnomen, Blue Hill and Oak Savanna Learning Center Trails

Photo: Bruce Ellingson
Plans for Learning Center Amphitheater

• Opportunity for outdoor learning and a gathering place
• 100-seat outdoor amphitheater to be located on west side of Learning Center
  • 2020 research and hired general contractor and landscape architect
  • 2021 plan development and fundraising
  • 2022 build
• Thanks to committee: Sue Hix, Scott Suhsen, Steve Chesney, Myrna Krueger, Steve Karel, Alaina Larkin, Tyler Paulson
2020 Board of Directors & Refuge Advisors

L. To R. Myrna Krueger, Bill Kolbinger, Randall Hoelt-Wohl, Matt Finn, Steve Karel, Refuge Mgr., Steve Chesney, Scott Suhsen, Carol VanHeel, Alaina Larkin, Refuge Visitor Services Mgr. Top to Bottom: Marilyn Danielson, Susan Julson, Mike Brubaker, Emy Minzel
Remembering Lee

• Lee T. Johnson served on the board for 12 years, 2008-2019. He served as VP, president, editor, photographer and Friends policies and procedures advisor. He was a dedicated refuge volunteer, a good friend and enthusiastic story teller. He is missed.
Membership & Marketing

Communications: Newsletters, E-news, website, member & donor letters, mailings, new rack card

Coming in 2021 – new CRM Platform

Thank You Committee

• Sue Hix
• Carol VanHeel
• Bruce Ellingson
• Steve Chesney
• Myrna Krueger
Wildlife Circle Donor Recognition

- Bluebird
- Monarch Butterfly
- Blanding’s Turtle
- Sandhill Crane
- White-tailed Deer
- Bald Eagle

Donors are listed by levels of 2020 donations over and above membership.

Photo: Mary Karlie Carlson
Wildlife Circle – Bluebird

- Mary Kay Harris
- Steve Chesney
- Carol Mertesdorf
- Carol & Charles Ossell
- Pat Graham
- Janet Leslie
- Randall Holt-Woehl
- Jocelyn Shaw
- Janna Carlson
- Steve & Becky Karel
- Alaina Larkin
- Chris Lommel
- Corrine McDonald
- Dave Martin
- Deb Sorenson
- Jessica Nelson
- Theresa Antinozzi
- Christy Aagaard
- Gary & Luci Botzek

- John & Jean Bowen
- Jerry Barringer
- Barb & Dave Bode
- Robert Chaffee
- James Dostal
- Alex & Rico Fraboni
- Gary Friendshuh
- Estelle Gunkel
- Sue Gray & Tom Kehoe
- Margaret Genung
- Jean Garbarini
- Kathleen Gill
- Dan & Nancy Howard
- Renee Ritzer & Dawn Hart
- Lee Johnson
- Tom & Claire Larkin
- Dave & Gretchen Martin
- Kathy May
- Robert Petzel

Photo: Randy Baum
Wildlife Circle – Bluebird

- Patti Pokorney
- Andrea Pearson
- Gary & Laura Pipenhagen
- Cheryl Pagel
- Terry Rokotz
- Robin & Scott Suhsen
- Diana Shonyo
- Paul Sitz
- Dennis & Cheryl Wold
- Clayton Watercott
- James Wolter
- Emy Minzel
- Kathy Sidles & Paul Gade
- Julie Bailey
- Jane Morrison
- Marilyn Danielson
- Susan Julson
- Melissa Winn
- Darlene Antinozzi
- Carol Cummins

- Marilyn Danielson
- Dave & Jan Fesenmaier
- Arlene Fenning
- Amy Korkemeier
- Claire Larkin
- Don & Mary Leaon
- Mike Niziolek
- John Riebel
- Deb Sorenson
- John Seppanen & Melinda Goetsch
- Ruth Thom
- Marv Ziner
- Kathy Lichy
- Josie Moen
- Deah Solomon
- Lois Fimmano
- Betsy Kerr
- Bill & Charlotte Strei
- Dawn Hanson
Wildlife Circle – Monarch Butterfly

- Jim & Diane Stroschein
- James & Erma Cabak
- Jim & Gail Nystrom
- Myrna Krueger
- Carol VanHeel
- Steve & Kathleen Chesney
- Michael Janke
- Chris & Diane Merz
- Paige Skakal
- Leroy Brown
- Carol & Steve Howe-Veenstra
- Susan & Kevin Brady
- Cliff & Patty Crockford
- Debra Colborn
- Dante Moriera Gilbert Fund
- Ken Dumdie
- George Freichels
- Al & Kit Ferber

- Bruce Ellingson
- Alaina Larkin
- Mike Brubaker
- Bill Dolan
- Lori Giebel
- Diana Shonyo
- Sandra Ackerman
- Suzanne Angstman
- Marliss Bock
- Ken Brennen
- Teresa & Randy Hillson
- Doug & Gail Hanson
- Judy Hidde
- Bill Kolbinger
- David & Carole Orton
- Dorene Pohl
- Scott & Robin Suhsen
- Paul & Deborah Trunk
- Beth Watson
Wildlife Circle – Blanding’s Turtle

- Diana Burlison
- Sue Hix & Dean Kleinhans
- Matt Finn
- Katrina Pierson
- Patty & Andy Sandstrom
Wildlife Circle

Sandhill Crane
- Robert Morgan
- Mike Rajala
- Gene & Mary Lou Seipp
- Glen Helgeson Foundation

Bald Eagle
- L & N Andreas Foundation

White-tailed Deer
- Ron Burley
Memorials
- Richard Nelles
- Sally Zodrow
- Lee T. Johnson
- Gary Ristau
- Mary Jean Winter
- Ronny Holmes
- Norman Metcalf
- Marjorie McCallum
- Ray Kopponen
- Miriam Meyers

Honorariums
- Renzo Vita
- Chandler Olson
- Sue Hix & Dean Kleinhans

Planned Gift Donors
- Debbie Russell
- Carol & Dan VanHeel
- Ken Brennen
- Myrna Krueger & Florian Keller

Photo: Myrna Krueger
Non-cash Donations from Individuals

Bluebird
• Diane Stroschein
• Mark Nicholson
• Gretchen Starks-Martín
• Kala Kolkind

Monarch Butterfly
• Joan Larson
• April St Aoro
• Patty Crockford
• Jim Stroschein
• Nancy Howard
• Josh & Becca Gad

Photo: Mary Karlie Carlson
Community Supporters

Sandhill Crane $1,000-4,999
• Terra Construction

Blanding’s Turtle $500-999
• Sherburne Cty Swampbucks
• The Bank of Elk River

Monarch Butterfly $100-499
• Stoneworks Architectural Precast
• Princeton Lions Club
• Norwegian Wood
• Sammy Perrella's
• Princeton Insurance Agency

Bluebird $10-$99
• Interest for Others
• Prairie Restorations
• Minzel Massage
• Christine's Hallmark
• Sherburne SWCD
• J & S Concrete & Masonry
• Prime Advertising
• Pebble Creek Golf Course
• Rockwoods

Photo: Michelle Raph
Treasurer’s Report
Carol VanHeel

Photo: Bruce Ellingson
## 2020 Actual vs. Budget

### January 1–December 31, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSE</th>
<th>ACTUALS</th>
<th>PLANNED BUDGET</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MCN Dues</td>
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<td>$ 50.00</td>
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<td>Bank charges, Online fees</td>
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<td>Website fee</td>
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<td>Friends printing</td>
<td>$ 3,419.16</td>
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<td>Postage</td>
<td>$ 814.15</td>
<td>$ 900.00</td>
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<td>Chamber Dues, Expos</td>
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<td>$ 1,200.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advocacy expense</td>
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<td>OSLC phone, kitchen sup</td>
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<td>Refuge printing</td>
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<td>Ed programs, training</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bus transportation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-cash donations used</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event expenses</td>
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<td>Naturalist ed contractor</td>
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<td>Misc exp, bird seed</td>
<td>$ 409.17</td>
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<td>Welcome Station</td>
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<td>Crane taxidermy</td>
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<td>$ 350.00</td>
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<td>Tables for OSLC</td>
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<td>Viewing blind</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSE</strong></td>
<td>$ 48,046.52</td>
<td>$ 42,394.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NET CHANGE/INCOME</strong></td>
<td>$ 15,847.73</td>
<td>$ 11,010.00</td>
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### Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>ACTUALS</th>
<th>PLANNED BUDGET</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership Income</td>
<td>$ 7,653.50</td>
<td>$ 4,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>$ 57,695.96</td>
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<td>Transfer to Endowment</td>
<td>$(10,000.00)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations Non-cash</td>
<td>$ 2,817.15</td>
<td>$ 5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants Received</td>
<td>$ 4,940.16</td>
<td>$ 4,960.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Store Sales</td>
<td>$ 5,333.74</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost of store operations</td>
<td>$(4,989.20)</td>
<td>$(8,650.00)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Store Profit</td>
<td>$ 344.54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activites/Silent Auction</td>
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<td>$ 2,800.00</td>
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<td>Interest Income</td>
<td>$ 102.94</td>
<td>$ 150.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Income</td>
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<td>$ -</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td>$ 63,894.25</td>
<td>$ 53,404.00</td>
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## 2021 Budget

### Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>General and Administrative</th>
<th>Marketing and Communications</th>
<th>Advocacy &amp; Outreach</th>
<th>Refuge Support</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>$ 5,000.00</td>
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<td>$ 5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$ 42,494.00</td>
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<td>Online Fundraisers</td>
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<td>$ 6,000.00</td>
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<td>Be Wild Funds transferred</td>
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<td>$ 20,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-cash donations</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$ 3,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td></td>
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<td>$ -</td>
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<tr>
<td>Store Sales</td>
<td>$ 15,000.00</td>
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<td>$ 15,000.00</td>
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<td>Cost of product</td>
<td>$ (7,500.00)</td>
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<td>Clover, Shopify, Credit card fees</td>
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<td>$ (1,850.00)</td>
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<td>Store giveaways</td>
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<td>Shipping supplies</td>
<td>$ (300.00)</td>
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<td>$ (300.00)</td>
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<td>Net store profit</td>
<td>$ 5,250.00</td>
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<td>$ 5,250.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activities, silent auction</td>
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<td>$ 1,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfer to endowment</td>
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<td>$ (10,000.00)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>$ 100.00</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 68,844.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ -</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ -</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 4,500.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 73,344.00</strong></td>
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### 2021 Budget

#### Expense & Totals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MN Council Nonprofits dues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank charges, online fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online fundraiser fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office supplies, Hotspot wifi</td>
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<td>$1,020.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Store equipment</td>
<td>$1,100.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website fee</td>
<td>$184.00</td>
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<td>Friends Printing</td>
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<td>Postage</td>
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<td>Chamber dues, expos</td>
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<td>Donation to NWRA</td>
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<td>Outreach materials</td>
<td>$700.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>OSLC phone, kitchen supplies</td>
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<td>Strategic planning</td>
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<td>Diversity Equity Inclusion projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refuge printing</td>
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<td>$3,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed programs, training</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus transportation</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-cash donations used</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event expenses</td>
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<td>Festival banners</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virtual presenters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Naturalist youth educ contractor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Misc expense, bird seed</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brick and plaque expense</td>
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<td>$250.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amphitheater</td>
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<tr>
<td>Viewing Blind signage</td>
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<tr>
<td>OSLC Signage</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue Hill &amp; Mahnomen signage</td>
<td>$4,000.00</td>
<td>$4,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,720.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,834.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Net Income/Loss                               | **$65,124.00** | **$3,834.00** | **$12,900.00** | **$48,390.00** | **$-** |
Board Nominations 2021
Introduced by Randall Holt-Woehl

Three-year terms
• Mike Brubaker (returning)
• Steve Chesney (returning)
• Matt Finn (returning)
• Carol Mertesdorf
• BearPaw Shields

Photo: Myrna Krueger, Bruce Ellingson
Refuge Report

Steve Karel

Photo: Mary Karlie Carlson
2020 Staff Changes

Those that spread their wings and moved on...
Samantha Lobdell
Visitor Services Intern
Ashley Biggs
Visitor Services Intern
Duane King
Rice Lake Biological Technician
….and the new faces that joined our family!
Jason (Jay) Ferguson
Senior Wildland Firefighter
Roger Marks
Rice Lake Maintenance Worker
Refuge Highlights
A very challenging year!

As a public health precaution, Refuge Headquarters is temporarily closed for the safety of visitors and staff.

Designated hiking trails, Wildlife Drive, fishing access points and designated canoe route remain open 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset daily.

For up-to-date information, visit the COVID-19 Information page on the refuge website: fws.gov/refuge/sherburne.

For more information about the refuge and to pick up a trail map, please reference the green message board behind you. For deliveries and urgent needs, staff may be available during business hours Monday-Friday.

Deliveries: Ring the doorbell and leave the package
Urgent Needs: Ring the doorbell and someone may be out to assist you

Refuge Questions: Visitor Services Manager
763-260-3078, sherburne@fws.gov

Refuge Violations: Federal Wildlife Officer
612-283-8963
Invasive species treatments
Black locust, hazel, crown vetch, leafy spurge, cattail, Canada thistle, purple loosestrife and others
2020 wild rice production at Stickney pool resulted from 2018 aerial cattail treatment.

2020- 924 acres of aerial cattail spraying
3 grazing Units  
4600 Acres  
300+ Cattle

Mahnomen Trail  
Completion of goat grant  
49 Acres  
200+ goats
Self-led Crane Viewing

2020: 11,244  2019: 14,578  2018: 11,194
Oak Savanna Learning Center Improvements
New Entrance Kiosk Signage Installed

Mahnomen coming in 2021

County Road 9
County Road 4/5
County Road 3/5
New Refuge entrance and parking lot regulatory signs includes parking lot numbering
First Stop at the Wildlife Drive...

...to the Bur Oak Welcome Station
Wildlife Observation Blind
Road and Trail Improvements
Refuge Events

Virtual Programs

Afternoon Snowshoe
Sherburne Staff
Sharing Time within the Complex

Alaina/Nikki helping with the drive-through volunteer event at Crane Meadows (Alaina behind the camera)

Cody and Tyler conducting a waterfowl survey at Rice Lake

Christina helping inventory items at Rice Lake
Wildfire Assistance

360 days/9 staff

Western Wildfire
Sally Zodrow Memorial

Nov. 10th 1967 - March 24th 2020
What’s ahead in 2021?

South Trail head to OSLC trail
Staffing

• Career Pathways: Wildlife Refuge Specialist Intern (May-August)
• Biology Intern (CDIP)(May-August)
Projects in the Works

• Junior Refuge Ranger
• Kiosk signage for Mahnomen Trail
• Directional signage for hiking trails
• Water control structure slide gate replacement
• New refuge website
• Install gate to allow access to welcome station
• Oak Savanna Learning Center Amphitheatre (Friends Project)

• Continue habitat management:
  o Prescribed fire
  o Conservation grazing
  o Invasive species control
  o Seed collection
Photo Gallery
Spectacular Fall Colors!
Blue Hill Trail
...socially distanced but still Friends!
From the refuge staff to the Friends of Sherburne: **THANK YOU** for your support in 2020.

We look forward to working together in 2021 to continue to fulfill the FWS mission!
Stay Wild My Friends!
Thank you!