Another year has come to a close. This year has been one for the record books in many ways. The biggest of note is how many people we have been getting at our events. Each year we host several events throughout the seasons and every year we see more and more people attending these events.

Our maple syrup festival in March this year had 400 people attend our afternoon event even with all that leftover February snow on the ground.

One month later (after what seems to be our annual April snowstorm) we held our Eggstravaganza event which is our biggest event of the year. Over the course of this two day event we were just shy of 1,200 people with 961 of those attendees coming on the Friday!

The summer festivals also have been having good turn out. We had to turn away people for the Firefly Festival! And the Dragonfly Festival was a hit as always with 150 people attending.

Even our Halloween has grown over the years. We had nearly 870 people attend our event which is 150 more than we had last year! Thanks to the great October weather people enjoyed their outside time and eased the traffic inside the building.

There’s no way we could run these events without all of you stepping up and giving your time, knowledge, and joy. We cannot thank you all enough for your help and support of these programs. It is because of your dedication and love of Eastman Nature Center that people keep coming back to these events year after year. Word of mouth about our stellar programs is another reason we are getting so many people attending. And it’s all because you!

THANK YOU!!!
### Volunteer Needs

**PLEASE CALL EASTMAN NATURE CENTER, 763-694-7700, TO SIGN UP FOR A SPECIFIC EVENT.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PHOTO SHOW TAKE DOWN</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Date:</strong> Wednesday, December 18th 10AM—12PM&lt;br&gt;<strong>Staff:</strong> Elaine&lt;br&gt;Help take down our 2019 photo contest photos. Good organizational skills a must!</td>
<td><strong>FULL MOON HIKES</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Dates:</strong> Wednesday, December 11 AND/OR Friday, January 10&lt;br&gt;<strong>Staff:</strong> Vicky and Kim&lt;br&gt;Help with wrangling the troops on a night hike.</td>
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<td><strong>NEW YEAR’S DAY SNOWSHOE HIKE &amp; BONFIRE</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Date:</strong> Wednesday, January 1 1-3p PM&lt;br&gt;<strong>Staff:</strong> Christy&lt;br&gt;Help strap on snowshoes or get a cozy bonfire going for guests to warm up by as they reflect on last year and the new one.</td>
<td><strong>FULL MOON MULLED WINE HIKE</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Date:</strong> Monday, January 13th 6—9 PM&lt;br&gt;<strong>Staff:</strong> Brandon&lt;br&gt;Help prepare traditional Swedish and German mulled wine recipes, or help with the Full Moon hike.</td>
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<td><strong>BONFIRE &amp; WINTER FUN</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Dates:</strong> Sundays, January 19 February 9 &amp; 23 1–3 PM&lt;br&gt;<strong>Staff:</strong> Vicky&lt;br&gt;Get a bonfire going while the public enjoys some winter fun. Help with the fire or the winter fun!</td>
<td><strong>WINTER BEACH PARTY</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Date:</strong> Friday, January 24 Saturday, January 25 9 AM—2 PM&lt;br&gt;<strong>Staff:</strong> Christy&lt;br&gt;Break out the shorts and sandals. Assist with crafts, games, and playing on the “beach.”</td>
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<td><strong>RAPTOR SURVEY</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Date:</strong> February to May&lt;br&gt;<strong>Training:</strong> TBD&lt;br&gt;<strong>Staff:</strong> Christy&lt;br&gt;On your own time, explore the park off-trail to look for and monitor nests and sightings of raptors. Limited to previous surveyors.</td>
<td><strong>SCOUT FULL MOON SNOWSHOE HIKE</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Date:</strong> Thursday, February 6th 5:30-8:30pm&lt;br&gt;<strong>Staff:</strong> Elaine&lt;br&gt;Help strap on snowshoes and wrangle the troops as we head out on the trails at night!</td>
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<td><strong>THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Dates:</strong> Friday, February 14 to Monday, February 17&lt;br&gt;<strong>Staff:</strong> Christy&lt;br&gt;Hike the trails or watch out the windows to tally bird species. Part of a national survey.</td>
<td><strong>VALENTINE’S BRUNCH</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Date:</strong> Sunday, February 16th&lt;br&gt;<strong>Time:</strong> 9 AM—12 PM&lt;br&gt;<strong>Staff:</strong> Vicky &amp; Kim&lt;br&gt;Help build a bonfire, serve up cocoa, take photos on the trail, strap on snowshoes, etc. for couples attending our Sunday morning brunch.</td>
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<td><strong>UPCOMING: MAPLE SYRUP SEASON</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Set Up Date:</strong> Thursday, February 25, 9:30-12:30&lt;br&gt;<strong>Finishing Training:</strong> By appointment; contact Elaine&lt;br&gt;<strong>Demo Dates:</strong> Sundays, March 8, 15, 22, &amp; 29 1-4 PM&lt;br&gt;<strong>Maple Syrup PreK program:</strong> Saturday, March 7, 10 AM—11:30 AM (contact Christy)&lt;br&gt;<strong>Festival Date:</strong> Saturday, March 21 1-4 PM&lt;br&gt;<strong>Staff:</strong> Elaine for demos and trainings and Brandon for the Festival&lt;br&gt;Help celebrate spring by assisting with syruping demonstrations, cooking, refreshments, crafts, games, and hosting.</td>
<td><strong>SAVE THE DATE</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS: Our Changing Seasons, Woodlands and Traditions</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Date:</strong> Saturday, March 28th 1—4PM&lt;br&gt;<strong>Staff:</strong> ALL&lt;br&gt;SEE MORE DETAILS ON PAGE 3 OF THE NEWSLETTER!</td>
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<td><strong>SAVE THE DATE</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>EGGSTRAVAGANZA</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Date:</strong> Thursday, April 9 and Friday, April 10 9 AM-4 PM (event time from 10 AM—2 PM&lt;br&gt;<strong>Staff:</strong> Vicky&lt;br&gt;Assist with a craft, “egg on” game participants, bunny-sit the live rabbits, paint whiskers on kids’ faces, set up and monitor the egg-hunt trail, or BE THE BUNNY!</td>
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BIG WOODS HALLOWEEN
You never know what the weather will bring at the end of October. Somehow we lucked out this year with great warm October weather! That made everyone happy—volunteers, staff, and participants! Because of the good weather and our reputation for having a fantastic Halloween program, 870 people attended our event! That’s 150+ more than last year!

As always the Halloween Arcade was a big hit! The kids returned to the stations multiple times because they were having so much fun! A big thank you to the teens from Wayzata, Champlin Park, Osseo and Maple Grove who helped run these stations.

We stuck with the classic activity offerings including the pumpkin scavenger hunt and character trail, the gross out grotto, skull lab, candy cannon, scat making station, puppet shows, trivia, and refreshments. For the fourth year in a row was the super popular bubbling cauldron!

We would also like to give a HUGE thanks to Beth Van Keuren and our Seasonal Naturalist Emily Meyer for painting our pumpkins. Your artistic talents impress us every year! The pumpkins were loved by everyone and many were raffled off to lucky families who took them home. Emily also decorated the windows with Halloween art this year!

We can’t thank you enough for your energy, enthusiasm, and dedication! There were so many of you helping out that day out on the front lines and behind the scenes that we can’t list you all here, but you know who you are — THANKS!!

DRAGONFLY SURVEYS
Thanks to all of the dragonfly surveyors this summer! They were out in the field for several hours collecting and identifying dragonflies and damselflies at Elm Creek and Crow Hassan Park. Thank you to Carol Klitzke, Cheryl Batson, Sue and Tom McCarthy, Deb Lewis, Jim Showalter, Margi Ambrose and Nance Bingaman.

AUTUMN WOODS CLASSIC
A huge thank you to Tony Van de Ligt and several local high school students for braving the cold, sleet and snow to help out at the kids area at the Autumn Woods Classic! Thanks for getting up early in morning and entertaining and teaching the kids at this event!

APPLE CIDER DEMONSTRATIONS
Once again this October we ran Apple Cider demos on Sundays! We ran these demos only on two Sundays this year, but the help is always needed and appreciated. A big thank you Gene Lau who stepped up to be our Apple Cidering guy! And thanks to Deb Lewis who helped with the Fall Tram Rides and stepped in with the cider demos when needed! Having you there working the press and giving out your knowledge of apples and cidering is a huge help to us every year. Thank you for taking time out of your Sunday to grind, mash, and hand out samples of cider this fall!
WISH LIST: ITEMS NEEDED FOR PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS

We need the following items. If you have extras or are looking for a place to donate your used items please consider us.

- **Suet** or deer/beef fat trimmings for our suet feeders. Must be cleaned and chopped into deck-of-cards size.
- **Black oil sunflower seeds** for our bird feeders.
- **Old metal cookware** for our new outdoor kitchen!
- **Ugly ornaments** for Geocaching!
- We have an Amazon Wish List! You can purchase items right from the site and have it shipped to us! Follow this link:  
  http://a.co/0TTcJQV

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ALL OF US!

BRANDON, CAROLYN, CHRISTY, EILEEN, ELAINE, JENELL, KIM, LAUREN, MIRANDA, AND VICKY
Save The Dates!

Here are a few Save The Dates for upcoming events at Eastman Nature Center and throughout Three Rivers Park District.

Volunteer Trainings

We will be having some trainings for volunteers who wish to assist with some of the education stations at our events. Topics will include how to do interpretation rather than give information, how to work with difficult students, and how to read body language. **Dates for the trainings are January 18 and February 22 from 2-4 PM.** Call the main line to sign up.

Climate Conversations: Our Changing Seasons, Woodlands and Traditions

Eastman will be hosting our own Climate Conversation FREE event on Saturday, March 28th, 2020. The focus will be on the impact climate change has on our transition from season to season and how it impacts our cultural traditions such as maple sugaring. Look for more information about attending or volunteering for this event in the spring newsletter if not sooner as we continue to plan our Climate Conversations.

Minnesota Climate Change Facts:

- The average low temperature during Minnesota winters are warming on average
- Minnesota is seeing more mega-rain events meaning at least 6 inches of rainfall occurs over 1000 sq miles in one event
- Maple tree densities in the state have moved north and east over time as our climate warms

For more information, check out the [MPR News Climate Change Primer](#).
Retiring Volunteers

This fall two of our volunteers—Kent Buell and Londa Ingebretsen—officially retired from volunteering here at Eastman Nature Center. Both have been dedicated volunteers working behind the scenes and on the front lines.

Kent has been volunteering within Three Rivers Parks for over 7 years and has been so amazing helping out with our festivals and programs. This fall he moved to Eau Claire, Wisconsin to be closer to his son. He told the staff that he is already looking for places to volunteer in the area.

Londa has been volunteering at Eastman for over 18 years! She has worked behind the scenes prepping materials for programs, repairing puppets, cleaning program buckets and nets—all the dirty grunt work! Her husband has now officially retired from the Township Board Committee that brought the two of them to the Twin Cities from Felton, MN near the North Dakota border once a month. She would spend her days here while her husband was busy with the Township Board and we reaped the benefits.

Both will be greatly missed, but we are sure they will find a reason to come visit us here at Eastman Nature Center!