



# Osprey Wilds

Environmental Learning Center

## Spring Newsletter 2022

### Historic Addition to Osprey Wilds

This winter, Osprey Wilds completed a truly historic acquisition of the Blacklock Nature Sanctuary and surrounding property to our organization. The 562-acre property, just east of Moose Lake, represents the single largest expansion of Osprey Wilds in our 54-year-history as an organization. This acquisition is even larger than Marguerite Schwyzer's 1968 bequest that began Osprey Wilds.

In December, the Blacklock Nature Sanctuary Board of Directors donated the sanctuary's 414 acres, as well as its financial assets (nearly \$600,000) to Osprey Wilds. In February, we purchased an additional 148 acres, located within the boundaries of Blacklock Nature Sanctuary, from Craig and Honey Blacklock, along with the historic home built by Craig's parents, Les and Fran Blacklock. This transformational donation and purchase adds tremendous diversity to the types of ecosystems within Osprey Wilds and presents myriad opportunities for educational programming.

[READ MORE IN OUR DIGITAL NEWSLETTER!](#)

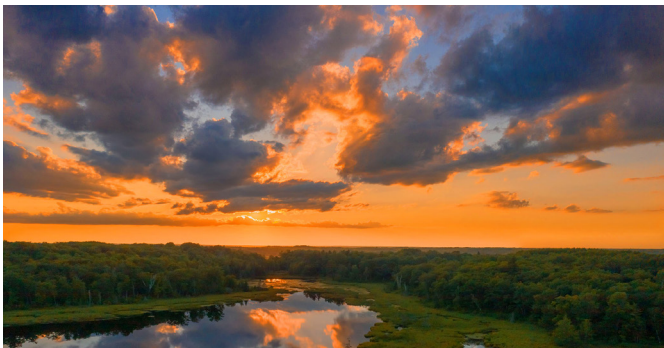


Photo by Craig Blacklock



### Upcoming Events

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| June 4  | Traditional Uses of Plants, a Cultural Bridge |
| June 4  | Volunteer Day                                 |
| June 11 | Farm Tour                                     |
| June 12 | Blacklock Campus Tour                         |
| July 23 | Blacklock Campus Tour                         |
| July 24 | Trapp Farm Tour                               |
| July 30 | Dinner at the Lake with Beth Dooley           |
| Aug 27  | Trapp Farm Tour                               |
| Aug 28  | Blacklock Campus Tour                         |
| Sept 10 | Blacklock Campus Tour                         |
| Sept 18 | Bids for Kids Annual Fundraiser               |
| Oct 8   | Blacklock Campus Tour                         |

Learn more about our upcoming events—including pricing, dates and time, and online registration—using the QR Code or visiting [OspreyWilds.org](https://OspreyWilds.org).





## Permanently Protecting Osprey Wilds

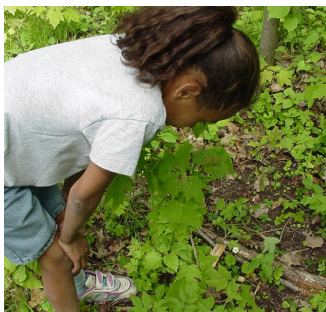
This January, Osprey Wilds completed a conservation easement with the Minnesota Land Trust to permanently protect 460 acres of our beautiful and diverse Sandstone property from future development. Acquired with funding from the Lessard Outdoor Heritage Funds, this easement preserves the shoreline, forests, prairies, wetlands and wildlife habitats of Osprey Wilds, providing a stable venue for participants and visitors to discover nature and forge lasting commitments to the land.

"Minnesota's nature centers are essential institutions that give our youth the opportunity to experience the wonders of the outdoors and develop a life-long conservation ethic," explains Kris Larson, executive director of the Minnesota Land Trust.

"We are so thrilled that organizations like Osprey Wilds have the foresight to protect their land base and ensure that this legacy will continue for generations."

As an organization, we hope that our example inspires others to consider doing the same with their land.

READ MORE IN OUR DIGITAL NEWSLETTER!



## Cultivating Trapp Farm

We are excited for another season at Trapp Farm! Even as our kitchen uses the last of our preserved produce in marinara sauce and vegetable frittatas, our farm manager is busy starting our seedlings and plants for this year's vegetable plots. This season's produce will include a wider variety of plants than last year. We've learned a few things from our honest students and young visitors and are leaving arugula off our menu.

In addition to all the wonderful vegetables, we will be adding broiler chickens. These chickens will forage in our pastures behind the grazing cattle. We are enthusiastic about adding these components this year to continue our example of regenerative agriculture.

If you want to learn more and see how we have grown over the last three years, we will be offering tours of Trapp farm on June 11, July 24, and August 27. Please visit our website to sign up for a tour!

Read our digital newsletter!

Use the QR Code to explore the extended version of our newsletter.

You can also subscribe to receive monthly communications about events, fundraisers, and volunteer opportunities.



## Summer Camps for All

The education team is excited to share our new summer camp offerings for 2022! Last summer, we offered one summer day camp and tested out a pay-what-you-can model, which was very successful. We filled the camp and had a great turnout from local community members.



This year, we are expanding our pay-what-you-can model across five summer day camps. Our new day camps have the following themes: Nature Art, Outdoor Adventure, Fishing, Agriculture, and Animal Enrichment.

Each camp is for a different age group ranging from K-8 and incorporates outdoor recreation, education, and relaxation experiences. We provide snacks and lunches featuring foods fresh from our farm and other local farms.

We are also bringing back our popular Rocks, Ropes & Rafts overnight camp for grades 7-9. This camp features on-site and off-site adventure activities, including high ropes adventure courses, indoor and outdoor rock climbing, whitewater rafting and camping. Scholarships are available and can cover up to 75% of the camp fees if accepted.

Thank you to our generous donors for supporting our summer camp program! You can learn more about and register for our camps online at [OspreyWilds.org](https://OspreyWilds.org)

## 2022 Camp Dates

### Nature Art Day Camp

GRADES K-2 & 3-5 | 6/13-6/16

### Farm Day Camp

GRADES 4-8 | 7/5-7/7

### Rocks, Ropes, & Rafts Overnight Camp

GRADES 7-9 | 7/11-7/15

### Outdoor Adventures Day Camp

GRADES 6-8 | 7/18-7/22

### Fishing Day Camp

GRADES 4-6 | 7/25-7/29

### Animal Enrichment Day Camp

GRADES K-2 & 3-5 | 8/1-8/5

