



# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

## FRIENDS OF SENEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



**90** Wild  
YEARS AND COUNTING!



Photo by Teresa McGill

For over 90 years, Seney National Wildlife Refuge has been a place where wetlands, wildlife, and people come together. Since the refuge's establishment on December 10, 1935, Seney has protected vital habitat while offering generations of visitors a chance to slow down, observe, and connect with the natural world.



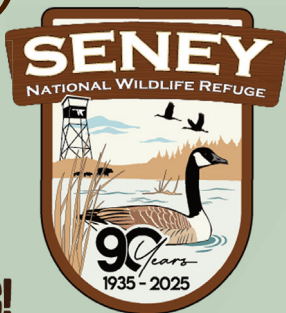
For nearly four decades, Friends of Seney National Wildlife Refuge — made strong by the dedication of its members — has proudly supported this special place. Members' generosity and involvement have helped tell Seney's stories, welcome visitors, fund programs, and build lasting connections between the refuge and the surrounding community. In 2025, as Seney celebrated its 90th birthday, Friends honored the refuge's past while looking confidently ahead. With the much-anticipated opening of the new Visitor Center on the horizon, member support will continue to be essential as Friends deepens its partnership with the refuge, expands opportunities for learning and engagement, and helps ensure that Seney inspires stewardship and discovery for generations to come.



# 2025 IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout 2025, Friends of Seney brought people together through engaging programs, community events, and creative partnerships that celebrate Seney's wildlife, history, and legacy. Here's a look at some of the ways we helped to connect people to the refuge this year.

*Celebrating*  
**90**  
*Wild*  
**YEARS AND COUNTING!**



Friends sponsored **18 special programs** to mark the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the refuge's establishment, welcoming **358 community members** to connect through creativity, learning, and shared experiences. Highlights included photographer Mark Seth Lender's weeklong artist-in-residency, a Wild Brick Build, a community read of Robin Wall Kimmerer's *Braiding Sweetgrass*, community potlucks and storytelling, wildlife walks, refuge bus tours, and educational programs—each strengthening connections to Seney's landscapes, history, and conservation mission.

## LOONAPALOOZA 2025

The highlight of the 90<sup>th</sup> festivities featured our two-day signature celebration with lectures, a birthday celebration, silent and live auctions, guided refuge tours, and community fellowship in honor of Seney's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.



**18 LOCAL  
BUSINESS SPONSORS  
SUPPORTED THE EVENT WITH  
\$4450 IN DONATIONS**

**\$1500  
IN GRANTS TO  
SUPPORT LECTURES**

**26  
VOLUNTEERS  
MADE IT HAPPEN**

**\$7600  
RAISED IN  
SILENT &  
LIVE AUCTION**

**30  
ARTISTS,  
MAKERS  
& LOCAL  
BUSINESS  
AUCTION  
DONORS**

**328 FRIENDS & GUESTS  
CELEBRATED SENEY**



# STEWARDSHIP & SUPPORT

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Friends is deeply grateful to its community partners—local businesses, artists, venues, schools, and organizations—who generously shared their time, talents, and resources, strengthening both the refuge and the communities that surround it.

*Special thanks to these community organizations who supported Friends this year.*

BOWMAN GAS CO.

CARMEUSE-PORT INLAND

CLOVERLAND CARES

CURTIS TRU VALUE

DORAN'S KING KOIN

LAUNDROMAT

ERICKSON CENTER FOR  
THE ARTS

HELEN NEWBERRY JOY  
HOSPITAL AND HEALTHCARE  
CENTER

HIAWATHA TELEPHONE AND  
JAMADOTS

HIGHLINE INTERNET

KEY REALTY, CURTIS, MI

MANISTIQUE FEDERAL CREDIT  
UNION

MOOSE DU NORD

NEWBERRY MOTORS

NEWBERRY NEWS

PURE CURTIS CABINS

RAHILLY'S IGA

SCHOOLCRAFT COUNTY  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

SISU PRINT SOLUTIONS

STATE SAVINGS BANK

TAHQUAMENON FALLS  
BREWERY & PUB

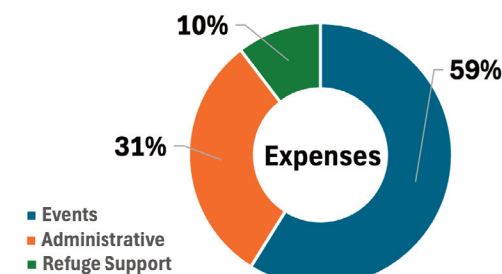
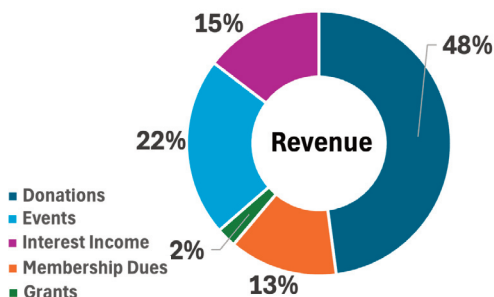
TRACY GERMAIN/FARM  
BUREAU INSURANCE



## CELEBRATING OUR MEMBERS

Friends of Seney National Wildlife Refuge is deeply grateful to our members and donors whose continued generosity sustains our work. Your support helps keep Seney wild, welcoming, and deeply connected to the community. In 2025, Friends reached a record level of membership, with 43 new members, 180 returning members, and 46 Life members demonstrating long-term commitment to the refuge.

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY



### Where did our support come from?

Donations	\$29,703
Events	\$13,514
Interest Income	\$9,065
Membership Dues	\$8,225
Grants	\$1,500
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$62,007</b>

### What did your support make possible this year?

Events	\$12,846
Administrative	\$6,718
Refuge Support	\$2,262
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$21,826</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$40,181</b>



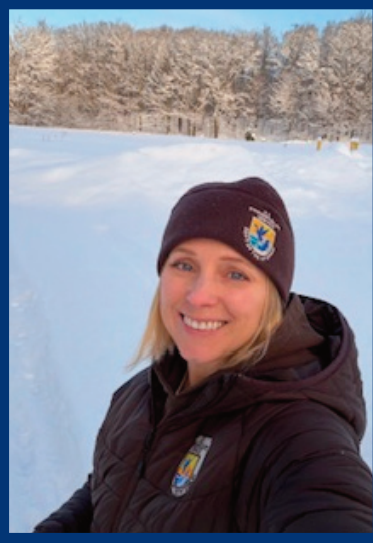
Every dollar entrusted to Friends helps connect people to Seney and ensures that the refuge remains a place of discovery, learning, and inspiration for generations to come.

### Net Worth

Cash & Checking	\$275,088
Other Current Assets	\$2,221
Liabilities	\$17,700



# LOOKING AHEAD



*Sara Siekierski, Refuge Manager*

## FROM THE REFUGE MANAGER

Last year was full of change and progress. We said goodbye to retiring staff, navigated multiple construction projects, and kept our mission front and center: protecting wildlife and wildlands.

Thanks to our partners and volunteers, we kept a close eye on waterbirds, sandhill cranes, bats, wolves, and piping plovers. These efforts help us understand and protect the species that call Seney home.

We also made big progress on infrastructure. Improvements to the Pine Ridge Nature Trail will make it even better for hikers and birdwatchers. Construction on the new Visitor Center moved forward—this will be a game-changer for visitors!

We strengthened partnerships with Tribal Nations, state agencies, and local

organizations. With help from our Friends group, we shared stories and inspired visitors. And of course, we celebrated Seney's 90th anniversary with the community—a highlight of the year!

In 2026, we're excited to keep moving forward. We plan to expand hunting opportunities, relocate into the new building, and focus on habitat restoration and facility improvements. Safety and public access will remain priorities, and partnerships will continue to guide our work.

You Make It Happen. Whether you're greeting visitors, helping with surveys, or supporting events, your role matters. Thank you for your heart and hard work. Together, we'll make an even bigger impact in 2026. See you on the refuge!

## A NEW CHAPTER TAKES SHAPE AT SENEY

Construction continues on the new Seney National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, an energizing milestone for both the refuge and the surrounding community. With an anticipated opening in 2026, excitement is building around the possibilities this new space will bring, including a spectacular new Marshland Nature Store. Along with refuge staff and volunteers, Friends eagerly looks forward to welcoming visitors into a lively hub for learning, discovery, and meaningful connection to this remarkable place. Stay connected through social media and subscribe to our newsletter for updates.

*Visitor Center under construction.*



## Connect with Us and Stay Informed!

Find us on Facebook  <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofseney/>

View us at Instagram  <https://www.instagram.com/friendsofseney2025/>

Shoot us an email  [friends@friendsofseney.org](mailto:friends@friendsofseney.org)

Visit our website  [friendsofseney.org](http://friendsofseney.org)

Join us!  [friendsofseney.org/join/](http://friendsofseney.org/join/)

Donate to the Friends  [friendsofseney.org/donate/](http://friendsofseney.org/donate/)

Subscribe to our newsletter  <https://friendsofseney.org/the-trumpeter-newsletter/>

Friends of Seney National Wildlife Refuge | PO Box 447 | Curtis, MI 49836

Friends of Seney National Wildlife Refuge is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. | EIN #38-2762381

Our mission is to support Seney National Wildlife Refuge through education, outreach, and community engagement.