



What's Inside

Bird City.....	1
In Honor.....	2
Naturalist Notes.....	3
Winter Family Backpacks.....	3
TWA Wolf Tales.....	4
Discovery Center Trails.....	4
Kids Corner.....	5
Membership Information.....	5
Calendar of Events.....	6

Center Hours

Office & Nature Center
Monday - Saturday
 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Grounds & Trails
Every Day
 Dawn - Dusk

Contact

Phone
 715.543.2085
 877.543.2085 (toll free)

Email
contact@discoverycenter.net

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Manitowish Waters Becomes A "Bird City"

David Foster, Bird Club member

On December 6, 2010, Manitowish Waters was named a "Bird City" by the Bird City Wisconsin Project. The celebration, sponsored by the North Lakeland Discovery Center and the Discovery Center Bird Club, featured Bird City Coordinator Carl Schwartz presenting the distinction to Town Chairman John Hanson. The designation—in the form of street signs, a flag and a plaque—recognized the town of Manitowish Waters as a special community for birds.



Carl Schwartz (pictured center), a Bird City Wisconsin Representative, presents a plaque to Town Chairman, John Hanson and a sign to Town Supervisor, Henry Bauers. Also integral to the designation and holding the flag are (l to r) Sarah Johnson, Discovery Center Director, Judy Cassady, Bird Club president and Jodi McMahon, Manitowish Waters Chamber Director.

Continued on pg. 2

Photo by Guy David

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 P.O. Box 237
 215 County Road W
 Manitowish Waters, WI 54545
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OUR MISSION

The North Lakeland Discovery Center is a community-based environmental learning center that promotes stewardship of the region's natural and cultural resources.

Property managed under an agreement with the WI DNR.

The Discovery Center is proud to be a part of honoring Dr. Bruce Janssen, and to carry forward his memory in a thoughtful and meaningful way.

Honoring a Special Community Member

Bruce Janssen was an active community member with an infectious laugh and a love for the outdoors. In honor of his passing, the Janssen family established the Bruce Janssen Memorial Fund. The family and the Discovery Center worked together to identify future projects, including construction of wood duck houses, educational program and speaker honorariums, and nature trail enhancement. 70 households and businesses contributed over \$3700 in donations.

The wood duck project incorporates family, friends and community. The funds will purchase materials; the time and labor to build the houses will be donated by Bob Schuh, a blind man living in Whitelaw, Wisconsin. Bob compensates for his blindness by using his other senses to size and cut the boards. Local 4-H groups, scout groups, and seasonally unemployed people will assist with assembly. Thereafter, the duck houses will be placed along some of Bruce's favorite Wisconsin lakes and streams, with future maintenance by the Janssen family children and grandchildren.

Memorial donations are also being used to underwrite wildlife programs including:

- * **Northern Lakes: The View from Below.** An Underwater Photographer shares views of Wisconsin's lakes, fish and habitat through the eye of a lens.
- * **International Crane Foundation: Worldwide Conservation Efforts.** After nearing extinction, the elegant whooping crane is on the verge of a comeback. Learn how.
- * **Bird Migration: The Gulf to Wisconsin.** Firsthand accounts of birds' successes, setbacks and failures as related to the 2010 catastrophic oil spill.
- * **Song Bird Mastery.** Learn through amazing mimicry – a fun and memorable way for all ages to learn bird song.
- * **Birds in Lore and Legend.** A professional storyteller weaves beautiful bird tales by sharing stories from life experiences and world folklore.

Bird City, continued from pg. 1

Modeled on "Tree City USA", the Bird City designation requires communities to show excellence in habitat creation and protection, community forest management and invasive species control. Manitowish Waters was particularly noted for the diversity of its bird habitat, the network of trails in and near the Discovery Center, the multitude of community educational programs, the town's work in controlling invasive species, and the annual Birdfest sponsored by the Discovery Center, Bird Club and the MW Chamber of Commerce.

The award resulted from an application process led by Jim Krakowski of the Bird Club, Jodi McMahon of the MW Chamber, Sarah Johnson of the Discovery Center and John Hanson of the Town of Manitowish Waters. Manitowish Waters is the smallest of the communities selected while achieving one of the highest scores.

The Bird City Project is funded by TogetherGreen, a five-year joint initiative sponsored by the Audubon Society and Toyota to recognize conservation commitment in the United States. The Bird City logo was designed by Wisconsin's nationally-known landscape painter Tom Uttech and his wife, designer Mary Uttech.



Original artwork by Mark Charon

Naturalist Notes:

Northwoods' Loons on the Move!

by Zach Wilson, NLDC Staff Naturalist

For those of you that participated in last summer's Turtle Flambeau Flowage Wildlife Pontoon Tour, it's likely you had a rare glimpse of one of several loons fitted with a special satellite transmitter. There are several loons from the Flowage and one from Rest Lake in Manitowish Waters that are part of a unique migration study conducted by the United States Geological Survey (USGS).

The study is looking at the movements of Common Loons (*Gavia immer*) during migration and on wintering coastal range waters. This loon movement information is necessary to formulate effective regional and national conservation strategies. With last summer's Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill, loon biologists and the USGS are teaming up to track the effects on our Northwoods' loons.



Common Loons often migrate several hundred miles to reach coastal waters during fall migration. Information about this part of the loon's life is not well known. The use of satellite telemetry allows biologists to track distant migration movements during winter. The transmitter attached to the radio-marked loons periodically sends a signal to a satellite-based receiver. The data is then downloaded to

an earth-based receiving station every two days.

During one of the Discovery Center's Scenic Pontoon Tours at the Flowage, participants saw a loon equipped with a transmitter antenna. This loon's movements, #55491, can be tracked on the USGS interactive website. Data from the website shows that Loon #55491 migrated to Lake Michigan on November 21. As of mid-December, it's interesting and exciting to note that this same loon has safely arrived and staged up on Patoka Lake in Indiana.



For more information on loon migration go to: http://www.umesc.usgs.gov/terrestrial/migratory_birds/loons/migrations.html



Explore the Winter Trails with our Family Backpack Program!

These fun backpacks contains activities, materials, and guides to help your family enjoy a visit to the Discovery Center.

The activities and guides help all ages to observe, explore and further appreciate the Discovery Center's wildlife and natural areas.

Family Discovery Backpacks are FREE to use, and are on a "first come, first serve" basis. Sign out a backpack at the Discovery Center office to get out and explore the winter trails today!

Wolf Tales

from the
Timber Wolf
Alliance



Increased Education Outreach Efforts A Success

Zach Wilson, Staff Naturalist

Timber Wolf Alliance (TWA) carried out a number of successful events this fall – Wolf Awareness Week (WAW), Speakers Bureau (SB) Training, and a Conserve School wolf unit. Through a rejuvenated volunteer network, TWA's educational reach is ever-

expanding. WAW engaged over 1300 individuals, the Speakers Bureau session trained eight volunteer presenters, and the Conserve project engaged over 40 students in wolf howling, tracking, and ecology studies.



TWA's Speakers Bureau program uses volunteers to educate audiences in the Great Lakes region. We have a number of great tools and information available for SB educators; many accessible online. Furthermore, we are working to obtain a number of animal pelts and skulls for trained speakers. If you are a Speakers Bureau volunteer and did not attend the training session, please contact Zach Wilson zach@discoverycenter.net or (877) 543-2085.

The Conserve School is an environmental semester school with a mission to inspire young people to environmental stewardship through academics and engagement with the forests, lakes, and wildlife. Zach and TWA Council Members Nancy Warren and Ron Schultz, conducted bi-weekly programs and field sessions. The Conserve School was a Wolf Awareness Week sponsor this year, receiving and distributing 1500 posters to schools nationwide.

The Timber Wolf Alliance Facebook page has over 200 friends. If you're not a friend yet, please join us to stay up to date on TWA events.

Dust off your skis and snowshoes and come play at the Discovery Center this winter!

The Center offers 12 miles of classically groomed ski trails and over two miles of groomed snowshoe trails. Our trails are enjoyable for skiers and snowshoers of all skill levels. Stop in the warming hut for hot drinks and snacks following your adventure! *(Please note dogs are not allowed on groomed trails).*

To help us maintain the trails, your donations are appreciated. Suggested donations are \$5 for adults and \$2 for youth.

Rent snowshoes for only \$5. Remember, members are entitled to free use!



For trail updates and conditions please visit www.discoverycenter.net/trails.htm



SNUG IN THE SNOW!

What happens to animals when the days get shorter and the snow starts to fly? Many head for warmer climates. Others get ready for winter by putting on a thick coat of fur. Some animals head underground and sleep so deeply they are almost impossible to wake up. This is called **hibernation**. Some animals are not "true" hibernators, they go into a light sleep and wake up throughout the winter. Circle the "true" hibernators below and then color in the bear!



Woodchuck

Skunk **Raccoon**

Bear **BAT**

Ground Squirrel

Hibernation is still somewhat of a mystery and an amazing animal **adaptation**. An adaptation is something an animal has or does that helps it survive. The next time you are curled up in bed, think about all the animals that are sleeping, snug in the snow!

True hibernators: woodchuck, bat, ground squirrel

Cut Here.....

Membership Form

Discovery Center Membership

- Individual/Seeker.....\$25.00
- Family/Household/Trekker.....\$50.00
- Adventurer.....\$100.00
- Trailblazer.....\$250.00
- Explorer.....\$500.00
- Voyageur.....\$1,000.00
- Pathfinder.....\$2,500.00
- Guide.....\$5,000.00
- Business.....\$250.00
- Please make me a **Bird Club** member for an additional \$10
- Please make me a **Timber Wolf Alliance** member for \$25.00 or more: _____ Amount

All membership levels include:

- Free onsite use of watercraft and snowshoes
- Monthly newsletters
- Program guide mailed to your home
- Discounts on programs and NLDC merchandise

.....
Increased benefits at higher membership levels:
please call or see our website for details.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ St _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

The North Lakeland Discovery Center is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit corporation, so your contribution to The Center is fully tax deductible as allowed by relevant law.

My check for \$ _____ is enclosed

Charge to : Mastercard Visa

Account# _____ Exp. Date _____

For more details about becoming a member of the Discovery Center, NLDC Bird Club or TWA please visit our website at www.discoverycenter.net.



Please return membership form to:
 NLDC, PO Box 237 Manitowish Waters, WI 54545.

January 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Happy New Year! (office closed)
2	3	4	5 Brown Bag: Scat, Tracks and Animal Signs 12 p.m. Presque Isle Library	6	7	8 Old Growth Snowshoe 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Wolf Tracking 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
16	17	18 Discovery Book Series: <i>Into the Wild</i> 4:30 p.m.	19 Bird Club Annual Member Social 6 p.m.	20 Nibbles 'n Knowledge: Let's Talk Deer 5 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Held at Camp Jorn YMCA	21	22 Fallison Lake Snowshoe 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Meet at Fallison Lake Trail
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 Nature Nook Activity: Wonder of Wolves 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
30	31					

For further details on programs and registration information, please call 877.543.2085 or visit and register online at www.discoverycenter.net.