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North Lakeland Discovery Center

Discover Us!

Manitowish Waters, WI. www.discoverycenter.net Connecting People with Nature

Vol. 3 • No. 2

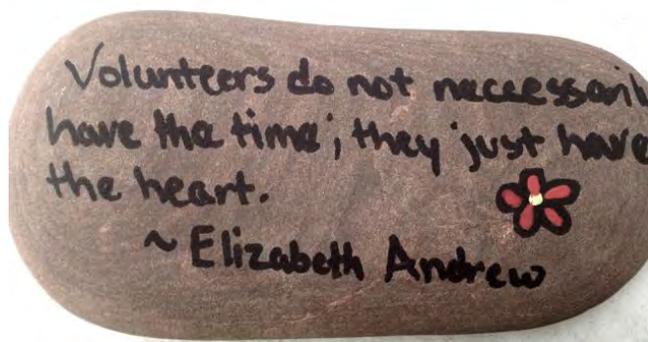
March 2012

Good for you, Great for us!

Volunteering can be a richly rewarding experience, but did you know that it can also be good for your health? Researchers have tracked adults who volunteer and have shown they live longer and rate themselves at higher levels of health than those who do not volunteer.

Better yet, those involved with environmental volunteering have been linked to having greater life satisfaction, reduced stress and less depression. Whether it's leading nature hikes or keeping up with a group of 3rd graders, most environmental stewardship volunteering involves some level of physical activity which is known to have major health benefits.

The increased exposure to nature, a feeling of usefulness, and activities involving multiple generations have been shown to provide additional social and psychological benefits.



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North Lakeland Discovery Center
P.O. Box 237
215 County Road W
Manitowish Waters, WI 54545
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OUR WORK

Connecting people with nature, promoting
 stewardship of our beautiful Northwoods
 resources.

Property managed under an agreement with the WDNR.



Good for you, Great for us!, continued from pg. 1

Of course, beyond the health benefits for you, volunteering your time is extremely valuable to us here at the Discovery Center. We rely on your generosity to help us deliver outstanding community programs and special events.

This year, we will offer a series of training sessions for anyone interested in volunteering at the Discovery Center. The first of these training sessions will be Saturday, April 7 from 10am -12pm. It is for anyone thinking about volunteering with us this summer, those interested in leading guided hikes or anyone whomight want to help with some of our new onsite research projects.

If you have questions about the training or want to learn more about volunteer opportunities, please contact Katie at the Center.

And Thanks!

Program volunteers Erin Specht and Irv Ruger help AIS coordinator Anne Kretschmann with a young participant at a voyageur canoe ride program.



Top 10 Favorite Signs of Spring

We have Spring on the mind! A poll of the DC staff led to our top 10 this month - how do we know Spring is on the way? Check our phenology updates on the web for actual signs of Spring - www.DiscoveryCenter.net.

- 1. Ice out.** Statehouse Lake has lost ice in between late March and late April over the past 9 years.
- 2. Longer days.** March 20th represents the Spring Equinox - the sun shines directly on the equator and the length of day and night are nearly equal in all parts of the world.
- 3. Maple trees start to drip sap.** Collect 40 gallons and boil it down to make one gallon of syrup.
- 4. The Eastern Phoebe arrives at the Discovery Center.** It can be recognized by its emphatic “phee-bee” call.
- 5. Feeling the first strong rays of the sun.** ahhh...
- 6. The first Robin sighting.** The Bird Club recorded a Robin in Ashland on February 15, 2012. (But no spring yet).
- 7. Puddles.** Get out those gum boots and play!
- 8. You can start wearing your Chacos again.** (Winter starts when we can no longer wear these sandals to work)!
- 9. Hearing bird songs and the drumming of the Ruffed Grouse.**
- 10. Goose flight and honks as they head to their northern breeding grounds.**

Van Vliet

The Friends of the Van Vliet Hemlocks, an affiliate group of the Discovery Center, were advised that the acquisition of the Van Vliet Hemlocks by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources was approved by Governor Scott Walker on January 12, 2012. This was a critical step toward permanent preservation of this beautiful parcel. The next step is designation of the parcel as a “state natural area” which will assure its future.

The Friends have been working closely with the prior owner, the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, and the WDNR to assure this transaction. In the past year, trails have been improved and marked and signage has been placed at the trailheads and along the trails. Hikers, snowshoers, back country cross country skiers and school children have been enjoying the trails.

The Friends, the WDNR and the Discovery Center are now working with a class of students at UW Stevens Point to develop additional informational materials.

Support for this transaction has come from a broad group and includes the Van Vliet Lake Association, the Carlin Lake Association, the Crab Lake Association, the Friends of Armour Lake, the Last Wilderness Conservation Association, the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, as well as the Presque Isle Chamber of Commerce and local businesses.

Check out our website for information on the Van Vliet Hemlocks and on the Friends group.



Year of the Bat



The Year of the Bat is a two year long global species awareness initiative undertaken by The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and The Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (EUROBATS).

Bats may be mysterious and misunderstood, but the earth’s only flying mammals are essential to our global environment. Bats contribute to our rich biodiversity and well-being through pollination, seed dispersal, insect control and other eco-services in rainforests, woodlands, wetlands, grasslands, deserts and cities. To learn more about bats visit the Year of the Bat website at www.YearOfTheBat.org.

If you are interested in becoming more involved with our bat population in Wisconsin consider being trained as an acoustic monitoring survey volunteer. Learn about the status and health of Wisconsin bats, as well as their importance to ecology. Trainings teach you how to use acoustic monitoring equipment and how to conduct surveys throughout the summer. It is a fun and engaging way to get closer to the natural world and to learn more about bats in your area.

Thanks to our annual Big Event fundraiser and Fund-A-Wish donations we were able to purchase a new AnaBat Acoustic Monitoring Detector for the upcoming survey season. Thank you to all who donated!

**Join us to become a trained
Acoustic Bat Monitoring Volunteer!**

Tuesday, April 10th - 6:30-9 pm @ Trees for Tomorrow in Eagle River
 Wednesday, April 11th - 6:30-9 pm @ Discovery Center

Please contact Licia Johnson at 715.543.2085 or licia@discoverycenter.net.

Gray Wolves Off the Endangered Species List



After public policies and misconceptions nearly drove the Gray Wolf to extinction, its protection under the Endangered Species Act (since 1974), has enabled the species to rebound significantly. On Friday, January 27, 2012, the Western Great Lakes Region's Gray Wolf was removed from federal protection and management directed to Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Issues facing our States and Tribes include wolf population numbers, lethal and nonlethal controls, and public harvests.

The Timber Wolf Alliance (TWA) views the recovery of the region's wolf population as a tremendous ecological success, and an accomplishment to celebrate. TWA also maintains that the healthy population of wolves now found in the region no longer requires the intense protection it once needed. TWA has supported the delisting of wolves in the Western Great Lakes Region, as well as the use of lethal depredation control.

As one of the most polarizing species in the country, the wolf can touch one's heart or boil one's blood. Opinions on the wolf strike at some of our deepest values and often exist in the absence of debate or balanced thought. However, healthy debate is incredibly significant now, as the decisions we make today will be turned into actions tomorrow. TWA stands as an organization founded to educate the public on what the current policies are, and how they may affect populations. Without federal protection, it is now up to the states and tribes to manage a healthy, ecologically functional wolf population. This process will be difficult and not without controversy. To keep informed, find us on Facebook or check out our website www.TimberWolfAlliance.org.

In Memoriam

A close friend to the Discovery Center recently passed away. **Betty Murphy** was an enthusiastic volunteer and active Bird Club member, serving as Treasurer. She participated in songbird surveys and Eastern Bluebird nesting box care. She was also a tried and true volunteer at the Center's Triathlon. Betty fully participated in many endeavors, accomplishing tasks with energy, camaraderie, smiles and laughter. Past Bird Club President, David Foster, worked closely with Betty. He remembers her as "a delight", and shared the following memory: "A group of us were cutting and trimming logs for the bird signposts at the Discovery Center. Betty lifted and handled the logs as readily as the guys, her sense of humor made the work go faster." He further went on to say that her unique gifts "made our Club a better group. We will miss her greatly." We will too...

Memorial contributions to the Discovery Center, as requested by the family, are being accepted in Betty's memory.

When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure. ~Author Unknown



Mark your calendars for upcoming Special Events!



Volunteers Needed!
Call for details!

May 18-19: Birding Festival

May 27: The Big Event

June 30: *Just Tri It!* Triathlon

July 13: Wine in the Woods

August 3-5: Weekend with Wolves

September 15: Fall Trails & Wellness Day

The Manitowish Waters Community Foundation's President, Terry Mueller, recently presented a \$300 check to the Discovery Center. The Foundation was developed to provide a simple, powerful and personal approach to giving, by creating opportunities for donors to target their charitable giving. Furthermore, the Foundation sponsors events to raise money, proceeds of which are given back to the community. Events include the Northern Highlands Music Festival, Holiday Dance, and Wine and Tapas in the Tent. The MW Community Foundation, through a variety of avenues, is making a lasting difference in our beautiful Northwoods community. We thank them for their contribution.



Cut Here.....

Membership Form

Discovery Center Membership

- Individual/Seeker.....\$25.00
- Family/Trekker.....\$50.00
- Adventurer.....\$100.00
- Trailblazer.....\$250.00
- Explorer.....\$500.00
- Voyageur.....\$1,000.00
- Pathfinder.....\$2,500.00
- Guide.....\$5,000.00

- Make me a **Bird Club** member for an additional \$10.00
- Make me a **Timber Wolf Alliance** member for \$25.00 or more: _____ Amount

All memberships include:

- Free onsite use of watercraft and snowshoes
- Newsletters and Program Guides
- Discounts on programs

.....
Increased benefits at higher membership levels.

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.

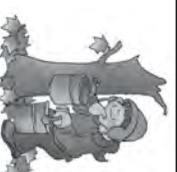
My check for \$ _____ is enclosed

For more details about membership, please visit
www.DiscoveryCenter.net

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



MARCH 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Friday Adventure Join staff for a trail excursion. 10 a.m.	3 Field Study: Green Plants in snow 1 - 2:30 p.m.
4	5 Bird Club Meeting 6 p.m.	6 U.S. Snowshoe Day	7 Brown Bag: Porcupines 12 p.m. <i>Held at Presque Isle Community Library</i>	8 Nibbles 'N Knowledge: Joe Bodewes, DVM 5 - 7:30 p.m.	9 Friday Adventure Join staff for a trail excursion. 10 a.m.	10 Porcupine Den Tour 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
11 Spring ahead! Daylight Savings Time Begins 2 a.m.	12	13	14	15	16 Friday Adventure Join staff for a trail excursion. 10 a.m.	17 Vermicomposting 101 1 - 2 p.m.
18	19	20 Vernal Equinox Campfire 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. First day of spring!	21	22	23 Friday Adventure Join staff for a trail excursion. 10 a.m.	24 Intro to Macrophotography 10 - 1:30 a.m. Maple Sugaring Tour 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.
25	26	27 Research Reviews <i>Restoration Ecology</i> 3 - 4 p.m.	28	29	30 Friday Adventure Join staff for a trail excursion. 10 a.m.	31 Nature Nook: Turtle-rific! 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Meet the Critters of the Nook 10 - 11 a.m.

For further details on programs
please call 877.543.2085 or
register online
www.DiscoveryCenter.net