



Visitor Quote: *“Enjoy getting back to nature! We took the interpretive trail which was absolutely wonderful. They have... informational signs along the way to read, interact and learn more. The views were beautiful. We went on the bog walk as well... Next time we will go earlier and stay longer so we can spend more time here!”*

Open

Trails: Daily, Dawn to Dusk
Office: Mon-Sat, 8:30am-4:30pm

Phone

715.543.2085/877.543.2085

Email

Contact@DiscoveryCenter.net

Getting Back to Nature



Drop by the Center to enjoy our trails, bog walk and interpretive signs and stations. Outside of hiking, biking and wildlife watching, you are also likely to witness youth experiential education first hand. Fall is peak time for school groups at the Center. Students take canoe trips, bog walks, Birchbark canoe paddles and trail hikes. They participate in macroinvertebrate (aquatic bug) collection, tree and bird ID, shelter and fire building, and learn how to use tools like the increment borer and Hach meter.

This week, North Lakeland School brings 150 young people for Outdoor Education – a program that has been hosted at the Center for over 15 years. Next week, an all-girls group of 40 high-schoolers from Elgin, Illinois visit for the first time. Some students sleep under the stars, others prefer the coziness of the cabins – each one enjoying the moments, memories and friendships made.

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OUR MISSION

Naturally Inspiring and Enriching Lives through Meaningful Connections with Nature, People and Community.

Property managed under an agreement with the WDNR.

Join Us!

Saturday, October 20th, 2012

Walk in the Wild

2.5 mile fundraiser walk and bake sale for Wild Instincts wildlife rehabilitation center

Visit www.WildInstinctsRehab.com or www.DiscoveryCenter.net for more details!

Director's Message

Partnership is a core value for the Discovery Center. Building off each other's strengths, we create greater impacts on people, nature and communities and provide quality services and experiences to visitors and the Northwoods community. Partners and volunteers provide a wealth of talent and resources to the Center and in this issue, we highlight a few of the ways Partnership is practiced.

We have several types of partnerships; formal affiliations with groups and clubs, working relationships with the state and schools, and ongoing partnerships with local agencies. We also work to keep our role as a Community Resource alive by collaborating regularly with chambers and other non-profits to host events on our grounds such as races, chili feeds, listening sessions, fundraisers and more.

In a recent talk Partnering for Nonprofits, Marion Conway identified some of the key benefits of partnering with others:

1. *Using and leveraging resources and strengths*
2. *Learning from the other organization's strengths*
3. *Operating more efficient and diverse programs*
4. *Developing new networks and new audiences*

We truly value all of our partnerships and are appreciative of the energy, skills, and expertise our partners have shared with us – and we continually strive to offer the same in return. Thank you partners and volunteers – this one's for you!

- Sarah Johnson, Director

P.S. A special note of thanks to the Town of Manitowish Waters and the Manitowish Waters Lakes Association for their support – in, respectively, monetary and volunteer capacities. The model we've created for fighting and preventing aquatic invasive species on the Legendary Chain of Lakes is one we are honored to be a part of.

Karen Dixon– Impassioned Invasive Adversary!



Karen and Staff Intern Scott Blado net the invasive species: purple loosestrife.

As President of the Manitowish Waters Lakes Association, Karen has a vested interest in the health of the Manitowish Waters chain of lakes. For years, Karen has taken this interest above and beyond her duties as president. She has taken an active role in recruiting volunteers and monitoring the chain for aquatic invasive species (AIS) as a lake captain. The Lake Captain Program is an initiative of the AIS partnership program sponsored by the Discovery Center.

Karen is quick to jump in when extra hands are needed. She's the first one we

call and often responds "Yes, of course I'll help!". We find she's happy to help in many ways to keep our waters a treasured resource. Karen educates boaters about AIS through the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program at boat landings on the chain. She assisted the Discovery Center with manning an AIS booth at the Vilas County Lakes Association Lake Day, the 4th of July, Cranberry Colorama, and the Musky Classic. Karen's quest for gaining and sharing knowledge about aquatic invasive species has truly benefited the health of the lakes on the chain. Thank you, Karen!

Bad-Dash 2012

The first Northwoods Bad-Dash sponsored by the Manitowish Waters Chamber of Commerce was a huge success! Over 130 runners participated in the 4 mile, 10 obstacle adventure run on September 1, 2012. The un-timed, fun race began at the Community Center, ran through downtown Manitowish Waters and the DC trail system, and ended at the Discovery Center's main campus. The DC was an event partner and took the lead in development and building of the course and obstacles. Over 40 volunteers assisted, including the manning of obstacle and water stations, registration and check-in, and at pre- and post-event gatherings. Labor Day weekend activities were open to participants and the public, and were built with healthy outdoor fun in mind.

Participants praised the event – and so did we! DC staff had a rare opportunity to participate and experience a nice dose of camaraderie. We left work behind and literally got up to our elbows in mud!

All proceeds of the Bad-Dash benefit Girls on the Run of the Northwoods, the Manitowish Waters Chamber of Commerce and the Discovery Center. Next year's event is scheduled for Saturday, August 31, 2013. You can check out the website at www.NWBadDash.com to get further details and see pictures of this year's race.



Discovery Center team, "Team Flash" consisted of (l to r) executive director Sarah Johnson, Mindy Nolan, naturalist Licia Johnson, water education intern Scott Blado, Katie Nolan, and Diane Krupa.

Create, Then Use Your Online Account

Our website is where you can check the latest calendar of events, read about what our naturalists are seeing, view great photos of people enjoying the out of doors, keep up with Bird Club, Timber Wolf Alliance and Friends of Van Vliet Hemlocks activities and more. It also has links where you can participate in and support the activities we sponsor. We hope you return often and invite you to create an online account.

With an account, you can conveniently register for programs or review your registrations, review or renew memberships, update or add an address and much more. The top menu bar on all web pages has a "login" link for those with an established account (and in need of a password reminder), or for those wanting to create an account. And all of our online registration, renewal and donation forms have login instructions so you can save time and eliminate re-entry of names and addresses.



Friends of Van Vliet Partnership Venture



Hemlock nurse tree, by artist Terry Daulton

In early 2011, a group of “friends” approached the Discovery Center about involvement with a piece of land in Presque Isle, Wisconsin – the 432-acre Van Vliet Hemlocks. The Hemlocks are located along 1.5 miles of shoreline on Averill and Van Vliet lakes and a large stand of old-growth hemlock hardwoods, as well as undisturbed black ash-cedar swamps and bog lakes home to a fabulous diversity of species.

By March, the Friends of the Van Vliet Hemlocks had formed under the auspices of the Discovery Center. The Friends have a 50-household membership and representatives from lakes associations, state agencies, the Last Wilderness Conservation Association, and the Discovery Center. Support funds have been received from the Natural Resources Foundation’s Besadny Grant and Paul and Alice Olson Memorial Fund. The Friends’ purpose is to protect and preserve the unique ecology of the parcel, and to promote development of trails and educational materials for the benefit of the general public.

Since the group’s creation, there has been significant improvement including signs, maps, and interpretive print materials. Several hikes have been led on the property, sponsored by the Friends, the Discovery Center, and the Natural Resources Foundation. The Discovery Center has led low- to no-cost school activities onsite, with monetary assistance from the Charles Petrie Memorial Scholarship. The site has quickly gained notoriety as one of Wisconsin’s greatest treasures, and is one the Discovery Center is proud to be a partner in protecting and enhancing.

Supporting Our State Bat Population

This season marked the third year of a special partnership between the Discovery Center and the WDNR’s Bureau of Endangered Resources. Thanks to leadership, guidance and training from Dave Redell and Paul White, Bat Specialists in the Ecological Inventory and Monitoring Department, the Discovery Center has become a regional resource on all things ‘bat.’

Naturalist Licia Johnson is regional coordinator for the statewide acoustic bat monitoring project. She has trained over 75 citizen science monitors on how to use special detection equipment to collect data on Northwoods bats. This summer, over 55 surveys and 100 hours of volunteer time have been invested – making our region one of the most active stations in the state. The primary goal of the project is to gather baseline data on bat populations, locations and abundance.

This year, thanks to generous donations to the Center’s “Fund-A-Wish” campaign, we purchased an acoustic bat monitor and were able to expand and support the project through these same funds. This program has made an impact on the natural world and has extended our reach into the communities – it is one we are honored to be a part of.



Discovery Center Bird Club– A Partner Since 2005

The Bird Club is an affiliate of the North Lakeland Discovery Center, and has been very active in 2012. Starting with overnight trips to the Sax-Zim Bog (Minnesota) in February, Mead Wildlife Area and Buena Vista Grasslands in April, and Wyalusing State Park in May, the Club has added a number of striking, lovely species to its life list of at least 251.

Starting April 26, the Club has gone out on weekly birding outings to a variety of beautiful trails and habitat areas— including Little Turtle Flowage, Powell Marsh and the Bearskin Trail--and will be doing so through October. On October 12, some members will be traveling to Port Washington to attend a “Grosbeaks Galore” workshop and do some birding. The Bird Club has a section on the Discovery Center website under the Programs and Events pulldown, where current information is provided.

Club members participated in the annual International Crane Foundation Crane Count in April, and performed 25 bird surveys under the auspices of the Discovery Center – another citizen science venture.

In a major project, the Club had previously established a birding trail for the Discovery Center, with attractive and informative signs picturing birds seen and heard in that particular area. Currently, a colorful birding trail guide brochure is in final stages of completion.



Greater Prairie Chicken on the Buena Vista field trip.
Photo by Bird Club member Guy David

Woods and Waters Loon Project– Since 2001



Since 2001, the NLDC and Iron County Land and Water Conservation Department have partnered to provide a “Waters Practicum in Loon Ecology.” The program gives Mercer and Hurley students the opportunity to participate in an important Science Monitoring project. The project is aimed at increasing loon nesting success through artificial platform placement. With instruction from NLDC and Iron County staff, students make and place artificial nesting platforms on area lakes, thereafter monitoring them spring through summer. They gather data on platform use, number of eggs, and loon chick success rate. In addition, students gather data on predator presence, water quality, macro-invertebrates, macrophytes (aquatic plant life), and shoreline, upland and littoral vegetations. Each of these data sets act as potentially contributing factors to loon chick success.

New this year, NLDC staff are in the classroom with students, analyzing data, attempting to draw conclusions, and putting together a wrap-up presentation. This effort provides a meaningful way to conclude a project in which the students were a vital part. The “Waters” project gives students

a chance to get out of the classroom while providing teachers a cost-effective way to integrate classroom and hands-on, outdoor learning. Thanks to all involved for helping us help the loons!

Welcome New Board Members!

Brent Jelinski



Brent was born and raised in the Minocqua/northwoods area. He graduated from Lakeland Union High School, went on to receive his bachelor's from UW-Whitewater and later his master's from Marian University. He started teaching at North Lakeland School in fall of 2006 as the 5-8 grade social studies teacher and was recently appointed as the District Admin for North Lakeland School District for the 2012-13 school year.

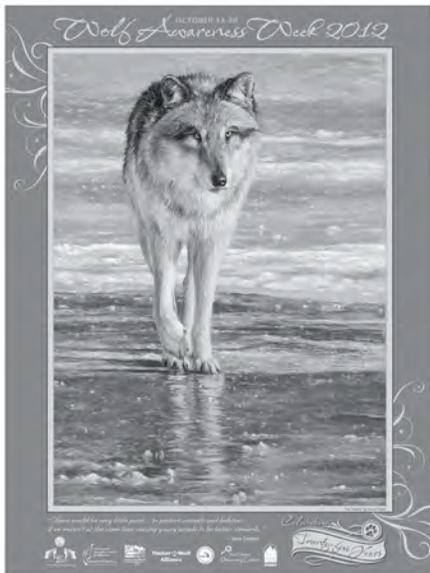
His experience with the Discovery Center came through the North Lakeland Outdoor Education program and he was impressed with the level of knowledge and enthusiasm the DC staff had as session leaders during the OE program. The DC is an amazing place to experience and he was excited to be part of the organization. He looks forward to continuing and expanding the great relationship between the DC and NLS.

Steve Kromholz



Steve first started coming to northern Wisconsin at the age of 15. His initial connections with the natural world came through experiential adventures such as camping, canoeing, kayaking and backpacking. He was, and continues to be, enthralled by what Mother Nature has given us and has worked with environmental non-profits for many years. Although he has been living full-time in the area just since this summer, he and his wife have had land up here for about twelve years.

Their first connection to the Discovery Center was the auction (now known as the Big Event) where he remembers having a ball and meeting really nice people. Now that they are permanent residents in the area, Steve is looking forward to getting to know the staff and organization better and begin putting his talents to work here at the Discovery Center.



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www.TimberWolfAlliance.com