

2007 – 2008 WINTER/SPRING PROGRAMS

Registration Information

- **Advance registration for all programs is strongly advised.** Walk-in participants are not necessarily assured a spot, as many programs fill in advance. To ensure you are able to participate in the program of choice **PREREGISTER!**
- Most programs have limited space available, so please call or email to make your reservation early.
- Please register Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at (877) 543-2085. You may also register by emailing at least 3 days in advance at register@discoverycenter.net. Payment arrangements must be made at time of reservations.
- Program cancellations due to weather or other emergencies will be made at least three hours prior to the start of the program and all registered participants will be contacted by telephone. In this instance, fees will be credited to future programs.
- Unless otherwise noted, all programs meet onsite at the Discovery Center.
- Discovery Center members charging program fees to their accounts have 48 hours to cancel in order to receive a program fee refund.
- **NEW Family Rates** will be available for certain programs. This rate is \$2 per child under 16 when accompanied by full fee paying adult(s).

Program Series

Nibbles 'N Knowledge: Educational and entertaining speakers lead a monthly series aimed at discussing conservation and nature-related topics; as well as light-hearted, adventure travel, and poetic presentations. Evenings start with appetizers and a cash bar at 5 p.m., and are followed by the night's featured speaker at 6pm. All winter gatherings are held the Manitowish Waters Community Center. Advance registration appreciated. \$12 / member, \$15 / non-member

Brown Bag Lecture Series: Various experts in the fields of natural and cultural history of the Lakeland area lead an education lecture series offered the first Wednesday of the month December – May at Noon. Folks are encouraged to step away from work and daily duties just for a moment; to bring a “brown bag” lunch; and to take in a bit of knowledge. Lectures are held at various community libraries (see descriptions for details). Advance and same-day registration accepted. Suggested donation \$5.

Saturdays at the Center!

Looking for a fun way to spend your weekends this winter? The Discovery Center will be hosting a fun and exciting program every Saturday this upcoming winter and spring. Join us for various hikes, crafts, ski tours, and other nature activities. Details about our *Saturdays at the Center* programs can be found throughout the program guide.

DECEMBER

12/5 **Brown Bag “Owls of the Northwoods”**

12 p.m. Join naturalist, Troy Walters, as he takes you on a voyage through the mysterious world of Wisconsin's owls. Learn about the unique adaptations and lives of these night hunters of the Northwoods. Held at the Minocqua Public Library. Donations welcome.

12/14 **Nature’s Gift Wrapping**

6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Simple gift wrapping from nature’s bounty will get you into the Christmas spirit. Artist Arlene Bozicnik of Boulder Junction will inspire your creativity to wrap beautiful gifts with items from nature. Bring brown postal paper, white paper, tissue paper of any color or wrapping paper of your choice and gifts to wrap from home. Decorating materials will be provided. \$12 member \$14 non-member \$8 youth 12 and under. **Register by 12/12.**

12/15 **Annual Christmas Bird Count – Minocqua Area**

Join the Discovery Center Bird Club in this wonderful citizen science activity that is focused on monitoring the abundance of our local winter resident bird species. Participate by joining a group that spends part of the day outdoors visiting local birding hotspots to count all birds that are seen and/or heard. Citizens who live in the count area can also participate at home by simply counting the birds that visit your feeders that day. Please call Zach Wilson, Center Naturalist, for more information.

12/27 **Dog Sled Express**

1-2:30p.m. and 2:30 – 4 p.m. Meet the fun-loving dogs of *Two Moons Kennel* for an afternoon on the snow. Learn about the sport of dog sledding and test out the experience for yourself! This fun activity is perfect for families and folks of all ages! \$15 member \$18 non-member \$10 youth 16 and under; *Family Rate* available.

12/28 **Holiday in the Woods**

1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Youth ages 6-10 are invited to gather at the Center for a few hours of holiday and outdoor fun. Center staff will engage the kids in a number of activities, in and out of doors, geared towards fun and appreciation of winter, nature, and the Northwoods. \$10 child. **Register by 12/26.**

12/28 **Photographic Journey into the World of the White Deer**

6 p.m. Join Jeff Richter, local award winning nature photographer, for an evening exploration into the world of the elusive, startling white deer. Jeff will share stunning photographs and stories from his beautiful new book, *White Deer: Ghosts of the Forest*. Held at the Manitowish Waters Community Center. Donations welcome.

12/29 **Annual Christmas Bird Count – Manitowish Waters Area**

Join the Discovery Center Bird Club in this wonderful citizen science activity that is focused on monitoring the abundance of our local winter resident bird species. Participate by joining a group that spends part of the day outdoors visiting local birding

hotspots to count all birds that are seen and/or heard. Citizens who live in the count area can also participate at home by simply counting the birds that visit your feeders that day. Please call Zach Wilson, Center Naturalist, for more information.

12/29 Sleigh Rides

3 p.m. – 6 p.m. Bundle up and enjoy a festive horse-drawn sleigh ride through the wooded grounds of the Center. Then head indoors to warm up with hot cocoa, coffee & cider. Donations welcome. Sponsored by the Manitowish Waters Chamber of Commerce.

JANUARY

1/5 Wolf Tracking

9 a.m. – Noon. Join us as we travel deep into wolf territory for a tracking excursion. We will explore the behavior of a wolf pack and learn the myths and truths associated with this fascinating animal. \$12 member \$15 non-member. **Register by 1/4.**

1/9 Brown Bag “Citizen Science Monitoring: Become a Tracking Detective”

12 p.m. Join naturalist Zach Wilson as he explains how you can become a citizen science monitor. Learn how you can contribute to some of the unique monitoring projects going on through the Discovery Center. Zach will discuss his important Pine Marten monitoring project and teach participants how tracking plays a vital role in attaining his data. Held at the Mercer Public Library. Donations welcome.

1/10 Nibbles ‘N Knowledge “Response of Male Kirtland's Warblers to 26 Years of Forest Management”

5 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Deahn Donner Wright, Wildlife Biologist with the US Forest Service, explores and shares with the audience her dissertation research on the one of the rarest members of the wood warbler family, the Kirtland’s Warbler. Wright’s work focuses on how forest management practices and natural disturbances within Kirtland’s Warbler Management Areas influenced the distribution, abundance, and habitat selection of this endangered bird. Start your night with appetizers and a cash bar at 5 p.m., and follow it up with this evening’s unique program. Held at the Manitowish Waters Community Center. \$12 member \$15 non-member.

1/12 Guided Snowshoe Hike: Exploring Winter Survival Techniques

10 a.m. Have you ever stared out the window and wondered how the plants and animals survive during our harsh winter months? Join Center staff for a guided winter ecology snowshoe hike and exploration of this winter wonderland. \$6 member \$8 non-member; *Family Rate* and snowshoe rental available.

1/19 Cross Country Skiing 101

9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Youth ages 8-14 are invited to learn the basics of cross country skiing techniques and safety. Beginner skiers will learn basics of gliding, turning and stopping. Skis provided; please include weight and shoe size when registering. Snow condition dependent. \$12 member \$15 non-member. **Register by 1/17.**

1/22 Guided Moonlight Snowshoe

6 p.m. Let the moon shed light on your web walking technique. Here is a chance to experience the wintry Discovery Center trails in the light of a full moon. This naturalist guided hike will focus on winter ecology and tracking the creatures of the night. \$6 member \$8 non-member; *Family Rate* and snowshoe rental available.

1/26 Van Vliet Old Growth Snowshoe

9 a.m. – Noon. Join in for an ecologically-focused hike at this beautiful, remote old-growth site. Old-growth forest stands are magical, unique area in Wisconsin's Northwoods that many find inspiration. \$12 member \$15 non-member; snowshoe rental available.

FEBRUARY

2/2 Candlelight Snowshoe

6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Enjoy the soft glow of candles throughout a forested trail as you explore the grounds at a unique hour. After your stroll stop in the Center for a warming refreshment. Snowshoe rental available. Donations welcome.

2/6 Brown Bag “Become a Backyard Naturalist: Tracking Nature’s Cycles through Phenology”

12 p.m. Paying attention to nature is fun and keeping phenological records is an easy way to compare dates of natural events from year to year. Discover what upcoming natural events you have to look forward to observing and when they should be occurring throughout late winter and early spring. Held at the Boulder Junction Public Library. Donations welcome.

2/9 Wolf Tracking

9 a.m. – Noon. Join us as we travel deep into wolf territory for a tracking excursion. We will explore the behavior of a wolf pack and learn the myths and truths associated with this fascinating animal. \$12 member \$15 non-member. **Register by 2/8.**

2/13 Citizen Science Monitoring: Exploring the World of Pine Marten

9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Spend a day in the field as citizen science monitors trying to locate an elusive pine marten. Through use of radio telemetry, track and explore the movements of this endangered species. Discussion of the pine marten ecology, and exploration of appropriate pine marten habitat will accompany this engaging program. Transportation provided, pack a lunch. \$20 member \$25 non-member \$15 youth under 16. **Register by 2/12.**

2/16 Family Explorations “Winter Wonders”

9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Enjoy winter-themed stories, games, snacks, and family fun to warm up on a wintry morning. Participate in indoor and possible outdoor activities geared towards fun and appreciation of winter, nature, and the Northwoods. Children and families welcome. \$8 member \$10 non-member \$5 youth under 10; *Family Rate* available. **Register by 2/14.**

2/21 Nibbles ‘N Knowledge “Lakes in the Northwoods Landscape: How they are changing and why”

5 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Are you concerned about the future of our Northwoods lakes? Join Dr. Tim Kratz, Research Scientist and Director of the University of Wisconsin Trout Lake Station, as he shares his research on the long-term dynamics of our regional lakes. Learn why hydrology is important to understanding our lakes, and how human impacts are affecting the future stability of this region’s waters. Held at the Manitowish Waters Community Center. \$12 member \$15 non-member

2/22 Moonlight Ski

6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Here is a chance to experience the wintry Discovery Center trails by the light of a full moon. Enjoy one of our several groomed ski trail loops as you meander under a star-lit sky. Warm up with a hot beverage upon returning from your ski. Please bring your own skis. Donations welcome.

2/23 Bayfield Ice Caves Trip

8 a.m. – 5 p.m. By February, visits to the Apostle Island’s Ice Caves are often possible, provided proper conditions. The ice caves are described by the National Park Service as “an enchanting fairyland scene of frozen waterfalls and chambers filled with uncounted thousands of delicate icicles”. Provided safe conditions, we will travel to the mainland caves (about 1 mile hike across frozen Lake Superior). If conditions are unfavorable, our alternative plan will be to experience the ice caves from a different perspective; we will look down on them from above. A 10:30 am Bayfield brunch will start the day’s event, and a stopover at a local coffee/tea shop to warm up will happily interrupt our afternoon festivities. Transportation provided; food costs not included. Moderate to Strenuous Rating (highly dependent on weather conditions). \$40 member \$50 non-member. **Register by 2/20**

MARCH

3/1 Guided Snowshoe Hike: Tracks, Scat and Animal Signs

10 a.m. Develop your wildlife tracking skills by learning to identify animal signs by looking at patterns, measuring, and counting toes. Join Center staff for a guided winter ecology snowshoe hike and exploration of this winter wonderland. \$6 member \$8 non-member; *Family Rate* and snowshoe rental available.

3/6 Brown Bag “Frogs and Wetlands”

12 p.m. Ah, spring is on the way! That means our wetlands will be waking up and our frog friends will be filling our evening nights with their familiar songs. Join WDNR Wildlife Biologist Ron Eckstein as he talks about these unique ecosystems and the frogs and other animals that call the wetlands home. Held at the Winchester Public Library. Donations welcome.

3/8 Powell Marsh Guided Ski

9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. No matter what the time of year, the Powell Marsh Wildlife Area is a fascinating place to visit. Experience the groomed trails of this unique environment on a

guided morning ski. Please bring your own skis and meet at the Powell Marsh main visitor parking lot. \$8 member \$10 non-member. **Register by 3/7.**

3/13 Nibbles ‘N Knowledge “Horton River Arctic Expedition”

5 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Join retired WDNR Biologist Jeff Wilson as he shares stories from his 28-day canoe trip in July 2007 to the Northwest Territory of Canada that ended in the Arctic Ocean. Jeff will share slides illustrating the beauty of the Tundra ecosystem, the unforgiving nature of the arctic environment and the challenges of running rapids, encountering the griz, and experiencing some of the finest fly fishing in the world. Start your night with appetizers and a cash bar at 5 p.m., and follow it up with this evening’s entertaining program. Held at the Manitowish Waters Community Center. \$12 member \$15 non-member.

3/15 Family Explorations “Life Under the Ice”

9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. An engaging program for the entire family! Join in as we learn and explore the underwater world through the ice. We will begin indoors learning about aquatic animals winter adaptations, and then will venture to the lake to study the ‘life under the ice’ up close. Educational and fun for all. \$8 member \$10 non-member \$5 youth under 10; *Family Rate* available.

3/29 Porcupine Den Tour

9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Spend the morning searching for the prickliest rodent of all, the porcupine. Begin the morning learning about our quill covered friends, and then venture out to the forest in search of these spiny creatures. Transportation provided. \$12 member \$15 non-member; *Family rate* available.

APRIL

4/1 Saw-Whet Owl Banding

9 p.m. Join the owls, Naturalist Zach Wilson, and Master Bird Bander Bruce Bacon for a late-night search for owls. With a little luck and the right weather, participants will have the opportunity to band and view these tiny, palm sized owls. \$15 member \$18 non-member; *Family Rate* available.

4/2 Brown Bag “Looking at Local History Through Area Lakes”

12 p.m. With more than 1,000 lakes surrounding it, the town of Presque Isle lives up to it’s meaning - ‘Almost an Island’, from the French. This small Northwoods town has an impressive history going back over 300 years. Members of The Presque Isle Heritage Society will share stories of the histories of local lakes, particularly Carlin Lake, referring to a recently-published book. Upon conclusion of the program, join a guided tour of the historical Heritage Cottage Museum. Held at the Presque Isle Community Library. Donations welcome.

4/5 Birch Bark Box Creations

9 a.m. – Noon Join artist, Frances Whitfield, for a hands-on birch bark box building workshop. Transform ordinary pieces of birch bark into a work of art. Your finished

project will be a cylindrical box with a lid. \$12 member \$15 non-member; an additional \$7 materials fee required. **Register by 4/3.**

4/10 Nibbles ‘N Knowledge “Elk of Wisconsin”

5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. They’re back! Join WDNR Wildlife Biologist, Laine Stowell, as he discusses Wisconsin elk ecology and his research surrounding northern Wisconsin’s elk population. Begin your night with appetizers and a cash bar and 5 p.m., and follow it up with this evening’s engaging program. Held at the Manitowish Waters Community Center. \$12 member \$15 non-member.

4/12 Signs of Spring

9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Paying attention to nature is fun and keeping phenological records is an easy way to compare dates of natural events from year to year. Discover what upcoming natural events you have to look forward to observing and when they should be occurring throughout early spring and summer. \$6 member \$8 non-member; *Family Rate* available.

4/19 International Crane Count

5:30 a.m. Join in the annual count and search for Sandhill Cranes. These amazing birds are sought after early in the morning, as counters listen for and count individual and mating pairs. Beginners welcome to join in; training provided. Please contact Zach Wilson, Field Trip Coordinator for the Bird Club, for more details.

4/19 Mighty Marsh Birds ~ Sandhill Cranes of Powell Marsh

12 p.m. – 2 p.m. What is that large stork-like bird flying over Wisconsin’s marshes? Chances are it’s a Sandhill Crane if its legs and neck are outstretched to the front and back. Join Center naturalist Zach Wilson for an afternoon of bird watching at Powell Marsh and learn about these unique wetland birds. Please meet at the Powell Marsh main visitor parking lot. \$8 member \$10 non-member; *Family Rate* available.

4/24 Woodcock Walk

7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Witness the mating ritual of the male woodcock, also known as the “timberdoodle”. Learn all about this amazing bird, and join in for a walk in search of this unique behavior. The males spiral upwards to a height of 200+ feet, and in less than a minute, spiral back down to earth, zig-zagging while making a musical, chirping sound. A wonderful family program! \$12 member \$15 non-member; *Family Rate* available.

4/26 Bat Chat

6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Meet one of the most misunderstood mammals, the bat. Learn of the amazing ecology and habits of Wisconsin bats, and discover how to invite nature’s bug-zappers into your own backyard. \$6 member \$8 non-member; *Family Rate* available.