

MESSENGER

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Forest Lodge
Nature Trail
Work Day
September 11

Moccasin Making
Workshop
October 16

WHO's Living at
the Museum?
November 15

Natural Holiday
Decorations
December 6



Check us out on
Facebook!

For More Information

about any of the above events, check out the *Programs and Events* calendar on our website www.cablemuseum.org

The Raptor Project

By Katie Connolly, *Naturalist/ Curator*

Raptors have fascinated humankind throughout history. Raptors, also known as birds of prey, have evoked feelings of grace, power, and respect throughout the ages.

The Museum began its raptor education program with the addition of Binase, a red-tailed hawk, in 2011. Binase was an adult female who had been an education bird for many years before arriving at the Cable Natural History Museum. Binase died in May of 2012, but not before spreading the message of wildlife conservation to many people throughout Northwest Wisconsin.

Seeing how Binase's presence impacted the hearts and minds of program participants inspired us to build a bigger and better raptor education program, and this effort was named The Raptor Project.

The Raptor Project includes building a new raptor enclosure (called a mews) with room for three individual birds; acquiring those three birds; and presenting programs using these live birds in the Northwest Wisconsin area.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Museum volunteers led by Bill McKinney, the new raptor mews on the Museum's property in Cable is completed. It features three separate rooms and an enclosed vestibule. The mews are monitored by security cameras and surveillance lighting to protect against potential vandalism.

We have two of the three birds housed inside the mews already! All of our birds are rehabilitated, non-releasable wild birds. They were all born in the wild, but were injured at some point and

brought to a wildlife rehabilitator. A rehabilitator, with a licensed veterinarian, determined that these birds were disabled to the point that they wouldn't be able to survive in the wild, but healthy enough to have a good quality of life in captivity.



Theo, the great horned owl, was found injured near Drummond and is being trained as an education bird.

Theo, a great horned owl, has been undergoing training with me at the Museum's Jackson Burke House since March. Theo was found on the side of the road in Drummond with a broken wing, and we're assuming the injury was due to a car collision. His wing healed improperly and he is unable to fly. He has been moved to the new mews in town and is getting used to his new home.

A female red-tailed hawk, who is without a name, arrived on July 14. This hawk was struck by a car in the fall of 2013. She broke her elbow in multiple places, and was classified as a disabled, non-releasable bird. However, she was only about six months old and showed promise in becoming an education bird. Young birds adjust to captivity very well. She is adjusting very well to her new home, and loves the rats and quail that we feed her!



Would you like to be the one to give our red-tailed hawk a name?

We are currently awaiting the arrival of a male American kestrel from North Carolina. He fell out of his nest this spring, broke his wing, and was taken to the Carolina Raptor Center in Charlotte, North Carolina. They attempted surgery to fix his broken wing, but it was not successful. He became accustomed to people, and in turn became a good candidate as an education bird.

I'm looking forward to training all three birds as educators. It takes work to get a wild bird to

Continued on page 6

Thank You Volunteers!

January 1 –
August 1, 2014

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Museum Happenings

CNHM Welcomes Summer Interns

By Katie Connolly, Naturalist/ Curator

The Cable Natural History Museum is very fortunate to have two amazing Naturalist Interns for the summer. They have been extremely busy at the Museum! You can find them leading Junior Naturalist programs, being docents at the front desk, making beautiful artwork for the summer fundraiser, and much more!

Kellie Solberg is majoring in Biology and Environmental Science at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. This is her second summer as an intern at the Cable Natural History Museum, and she is having a blast! This is the farthest north she has lived in Wisconsin, and she loves the scenery of the Northwoods.

Katie McKiernan is majoring in Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University. Her passion is educating the public on the importance of wildlife conservation, and she is putting her enthusiasm to good work this summer.

Kellie and Katie have been working hard at making the Junior Naturalist program the best it can be. Their leadership led to the Junior Naturalists earning “Best Overall Float” in the Cable Fourth of July Parade! The kids in the program have had an amazing time learning about the natural world, thanks to Katie and Kellie.

The next time you’re in the Museum, be sure meet these fantastic interns. We wish them the best of luck with their college studies and beyond! 🦋



Katie (at left) and Kellie

Have You Flown Over the Northwoods Yet?

By Emily Stone, Naturalist/Educator

For the kid in all of us who marvels at the fastest, the strongest, the best of anything, learning about animal adaptations in the Nature’s Superheroes Exhibit is a “BAM! WOW! Sha-ZAM!” experience. The Museum’s 2014 annual exhibit has proven itself to be one of the most exciting exhibits for kids of ALL ages that we’ve ever had. I think it starts with donning a brightly-colored superhero cape at the door. That puts everyone on an equal playing field!



The green screen flight studio is a huge hit with little superheroes!

Inside, the green screen studio—where you can watch yourself fly over the Northwoods using the magic of technology—is a big hit with toddlers on up. Museum staff and docents love peeking in to see a flock of kids giggling and soaring on the screen.

There are plenty of opportunities to learn, too, by arranging magnetic life cycles of butterflies and frogs, searching for the perfectly camouflaged gray tree frog and stick bugs, and comparing your strength to a dung beetle’s.

For the higher-brow among us, “kryptonite” and “sidekick” text panels give visitors relevant information about the threats facing our seven chosen Nature’s Superheroes, and what you can do to help.

This exhibit would not have been possible without an army of dedicated volunteers, and the generosity of several foundations. Thanks to the Lone Wolf Fund and the Four Cedars Environmental Fund of the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation, The Louis Stewart Foundation, Xcel Energy Foundation, and all of our Museum members and supporters!

Every year we hear people say “This is the best exhibit ever!” so it’s nice to know that we just keep getting better! 🦋

Museum Happenings

Junior Naturalists 2014

By *Katie Connolly, Naturalist/Curator*

Every Tuesday and Wednesday morning our Junior Naturalists pour through the doors, eager to learn and, most importantly, have fun. They fill the Museum with infectious laughter and positive energy. I cannot help but feel like a “Junior” Naturalist myself!

Our Junior Naturalists have had a great time this summer. They learned about critters who some may find unlikeable; went on a birding trek to discover our feathered friends; put on a “cloak of invisibility” to hide in the forest; investigated scat (what animals leave behind); and discovered insects living here in Cable. This year our Junior Naturalists also won the “Best Overall Float” in the Cable Fourth of July Parade. You might have noticed them dressed as superheroes and chanting as they rolled down the street on their beautiful float.

The Junior Naturalist Program is truly a team effort. This summer we had two awesome interns leading our young naturalists: Katie McKiernan and Kellie Solberg. Thanks to them, our Junior Naturalists had an amazing summer program they will remember for years to come. 🐦



The Junior Naturalists won “Best Overall Float”

Master Naturalists

By *Emily Stone, Naturalist/Educator*

During the third week of June, 2014, 10 students, two instructors, and a dozen natural resource professionals wove together the story of Wisconsin’s natural history. The students all finished the course as certified “Wisconsin Master Naturalist Volunteers.”

This new program is based on a successful Minnesota Master Naturalist program and is similar to the Master Gardener program. It provides 40 hours of coursework in natural history, interpretation, and conservation stewardship, and then requires 40 hours of volunteer service per year. The Museum helped to pilot the program in the fall of 2012, and now it is up and running!

Our intergenerational group of women—from college interns to retired teachers—spent the week learning that the basic plot of our Wisconsin story is universal: the landscape we see today is a result of geologic history, current climate, and recent disturbance. Endless variety in these three criteria results in the existence of rainforests and deserts, and everything in between.

While many Master Naturalist courses are classroom based with two full-day field trips, our week-long intensive schedule let us be in the field most of every day. We traveled to Mellen, the Moquah Barrens, the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR), and the Forest Lodge Nature Trail.

Each student must complete a capstone project by the end of the course. Becky Sapper, my co-instructor from the NERR and I set up both a stewardship and an education experience for the students to choose from at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. On our final day, some participants removed non-native plants at the Aldo Leopold Native Seed Orchard, while others set up tables in the atrium and taught school kids on a field trip about frogs, wetlands, tracks and scat, and snakes. One student chose to create a brochure about the emerald ash borer. Everyone had a blast!

We ended the week exhausted, but with a better understanding of Wisconsin’s natural history, and how to share it with others. Although the newly certified Master Naturalist Volunteers have a solid base of knowledge, they will be adding details and depth to this story of Wisconsin’s natural history for many years to come. They will also be giving back to their communities by completing 40 hours of volunteer service every year. Check out kids’ programs with Master Naturalist Volunteer Jane Weber on the Museum’s fall and winter program calendars, and admire Carol Werner’s work in the Museum’s new pollinator garden. These well-trained volunteers will be a valuable, long-term asset to the Museum! Becky and I are planning to host another Master Naturalist Volunteer Training Course next summer. Watch for details in our calendar. Prof. Clayton Russell and Becky will also host a course with evening sessions this fall at Northland College. Find out more about this awesome program at [wimasternaturalist.org!](http://wimasternaturalist.org/) 🐦



Naturalist Intern Katie McKiernan thoroughly enjoyed the bird banding demonstration.

Thank You Volunteers!

January 1 —
August 1, 2014

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Kathy Zuelsdorff



Paddle the Namekagon

By Emily Stone, Naturalist/Educator

It didn't take long to pack their Duluth packs. Six of the seven boys had been on a canoe trip with me already, because I started running these trips in 2012; the newbie was a younger brother. Sleeping bags, sleeping pads, head lamps, and mess kits from the National Park Service went into the garbage bag-lined packs with their clothes, toothbrushes, and extra shoes. Within half an hour, the seven boys, two leaders, and two volunteer drivers were on our way to the Namekagon River landing just below the Hayward dam.

This canoe trip is part of the Museum's "Forest Lab Intermediate Program," or FLIP, that offers programs for kids going into grades 6-12. This summer, the FLIP kids also snorkeled in Lake Namekagon with the Park Service, electro-shocked fish with the DNR, and dug potatoes with Bayfield County Extension.

Many hands make light work. Unloading the Canoes on Wheels boats (a Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters program that lends canoes to educational programs for free) at the landing went quickly. I'm often impressed with these local kids—they jump right in to help and don't complain.

But quite a few local residents drive by the brown NPS arrowhead signs every day, and never stop to realize that they live right next to a National Park. The Namekagon River is a tributary of the St. Croix, and therefore is part of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, a unit of the National Park Service (NPS). In 2012, when I first ran a trip like this, none of the kids realized that we live so close to a Park.

Both the Cable Natural History Museum and the National Park Service want to get kids on the river. So, the Park and the Museum have developed a marvelous partnership in the past few years. I provide the trip guiding experience, camp food, and participants, and the Park provides camping gear, a second adult to come along, a Park Ranger for an evening program, and logistical support. This year, funding was provided through the St. Croix River Association, which was awarded an America's Best Idea grant from the National Park Foundation.

After we gathered around the picnic table at our first night's campsite, David, an intern with the Park and my co-leader, asked, "Does anyone know where the closest National Park is?" Without blinking, several boys shouted: "Right here!"

Yes, we had a successful trip. 🌿



Jack Hietpas agrees, being on the river is fantastic!
Photo by Emily Stone.

Plant Sale Benefits the Museum, Gardeners, and Butterflies!

By Vivianne Hanke, Plant Sale Volunteer Coordinator

Preparations for the plant sale started in late last fall with a review of prior plant sale results and gathering seeds at Arlyn Posekany's garden and at the Museum's gardens. Most of these seeds required stratification, a process used to fool the built-in dormancy mechanism. I also experimented with starting some seeds outside in the fall.

My indoor seed starting date was March 1. We had a very cold spring and it was not feasible to heat Arlyn's greenhouse at M&M Greenhouse and Gifts in Barnes, so I took a chance and started the seeds in my basement under grow lights. Ninety percent of the seeds sprouted and were transplanted into small pots to save space until the greenhouse could be heated.

During the first week of April, Arlyn offered extra space at the greenhouse, so I started many vegetables and flower seeds. Before I could move my seedlings to the greenhouse, the greenhouses at M&M collapsed under the inordinate amount of snow. The greenhouse was unavailable for the seedlings until the beginning of May. I appropriated every fluorescent light fixture and horizontal space from my husband's shop and the

spare room for the seedlings.

The month before the plant sale was a mad dash to transplant, label, and price a record number of plants. My experiment with sowing some seeds directly outside worked for most seeds, but they sprouted much later, even though I dug them up from under three feet of snow. Those seedlings became available for sale in June. Several other people donated plants for the sale as well.

At the sale, we identified native plants that attract pollinators with butterfly symbols to build on this year's Museum exhibit theme, and to encourage people to become "Superhero Sidekicks."

On May 24, with the help of Arlyn (a native plant expert), the Museum staff, and Beta McKinney, we had a record sale. At 4:00 p.m., we donated all unsold vegetable plants to the Cable Community Farm to use in the Growing Together Garden, which supplies the local food shelf. The rest of the plants were cared for and sold until a two-for-one sale on June 21.

We exceeded all expectations by raising a grand total of \$1876.85. Untold in this account are the hours of enjoyment I experienced both in growing and selling the plants. 🌿



Vivianne Hanke volunteered countless hours to make the plant sale a success. Thank You, Vivianne!

Spring Visitors

By Joe Brady, *Museum Volunteer*

Summer vacation loomed. What do you do with 370 students, all with ants-in-their-pants, in grades one through eight, and from nine different schools? Take them to the new exhibit, “Nature’s Superheroes: Adventures with Adaptations” at the Cable Natural History Museum, of course!

As the “tramp, tramp, tramp” of the feet of many children came up the path, two Museum naturalists, and one of three volunteers (Joe Brady, Larry Hanson, and Skip Perkins) readied themselves for the fun. The children were whisked into the Museum classroom for an orientation about the superheroes and knighted into their superhero capes. Museum naturalists Emily and Katie gave the kids a quick pre-test, so that we could measure their learning at the end of the field trip (and test our teaching, too). Then we divided the students into three gaggles to start on adventures in the classroom, outdoors, and in the exhibit hall.

My gaggles rotated through the exhibit hall. The group loved the speedy flight of the peregrine falcon (up to 242 mph!) and couldn’t believe a plant (bunchberry) could have super speed. Tadpoles seemed to work for understanding the super transformation of metamorphosis.

Echolocation had everyone pressing buttons to hear the different sounds of bats, and there was genuine concern for their plight when we talked about white-nose syndrome. Thoughts of a spider’s insect smoothie made the super silk station a hit, and some kids might still be at the super invisibility station looking for the gray tree frog. The kids had a blast watching themselves fly over the Northwoods in the green screen studio at the super flight station. The dung beetle drew noises of disgust at first, and then admiration when we talked about his super strength.

Seeing the difference in each school, each grade, and each individual was fascinating, and a real challenge. How do we reach those active, inquisitive minds? I was constantly tailoring the presentation to my audience. Both the teachers and students were learning. To bring back their attention, I would say, “watch me” and point to my eyes. I had learned that when taking my puppy to training, and it was very effective for kids in grades one, two, and three.

Of course, the volunteers always have to keep the naturalists on their toes. As each gaggle came through the exhibit, I prompted them to respond to a question that I knew they would receive in the post-test. So when they were asked “What is your favorite super hero?” all 45 students yelled out in unison, “Joe!”

At the end there was a census taken to see if there had been a change in attitudes. There are no venomous spiders in Wisconsin. You do not need to be afraid of bats. Butterflies need your help!

As the chattering mob boarded their busses and rode into the sunset, each Museum educator and volunteer could be heard giving an audible sigh. Success? Relief? Satisfaction? It was some combination of all three. 🐾



A gaggle of young superheroes stands ready to enter the exhibit hall.

Lakes Alive! 2015 Exhibit Needs an Exhibit Designer

Believe it or not, we are already planning our 2015 exhibit. With a theme like “lakes” there are many directions we could go. You can look forward to a huge mural of a cross-section of lake, an underwater green screen experience, and lots more fun!

We are also planning to hire an Exhibit Design Assistant to help Naturalist/Educator Emily Stone create the exhibit. Do you know anyone with an education/science background, lots of creativity, and 25-40 hours a week to spare from January-May 2015? Check out the full job description on our website under Employment Opportunities. 🐾

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Katie Connolly
Naturalist Curator

Emily Stone
Naturalist Educator

Susan Thurn
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Earlier Date!

2014 Power of the Purse

Area women and their friends are eagerly anticipating the fifth annual Power of the Purse luncheon and silent auction to benefit exhibit development at the Cable Natural History Museum. This year's fundraiser will be held on Saturday, September 6, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Flat Creek Inn, Hayward.

After bidding and dining, our featured speaker Dr. Jean McElvain, Assistant Curator at the Goldstein Museum of Design, will trace the transformation of the handbag from utilitarian object of ancient times to status symbol of recent centuries.

In addition to great purses and select accessories, this year's auction will feature an original oil painting by Sara Qualey, and once again, we'll have a gold and gemstone pendant for one lucky winner, designed by David Neilson of Gemstone Goldsmiths in Trego and valued at over \$7,000. Several businesses have donated raffle items to pamper yourself or decorate your home.

Consider donating a great new bag for the silent auction. Donations can be dropped off at the Cable Natural History Museum or Firefly Trading Company in Cable, and Outdoor Ventures or Carnegie Kids in Hayward. Don't miss this fun-filled event! Join us on September 6, and help support the Museum's educational mission. 🦋



The Raptor Project *(Continued from page 1)*

become an education bird, but it is a labor of love and I'm excited to begin! Keep an eye out for future programs involving the three new birds.

The Raptor Project is off to a soaring start. You can help us by making a donation. Every cent helps! Also, consider purchasing a raffle ticket for an owl pendant, handcrafted by local jeweler Dave Neilsen. This gold and gemstone pendant is valued at over \$7,000, and all proceeds go to The Raptor Project! Tickets are \$20 each, or 3 for \$50. Buy your tickets today at the Cable Natural History Museum or at Firefly Trading Company in Cable, WI. The drawing for the pendant will be at the Museum's Power of the Purse fundraiser on September 6th. You need not be present to win.

We are also offering an opportunity to name our new red-tailed hawk and our kestrel. The price to name a raptor is \$3,500 (roughly the cost of its care for one year). Naming a raptor is a great way to honor someone, a one-of-a-kind gift, or a way to making a lasting impression. If you are interested in naming a raptor, contact Deb at 715-798-3890. 🦋



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A dragonfly in flight can reach speeds of up to 60 miles per hour.

A group of vultures is called a committee, venue, or volt. A flock of vultures is called a kettle.



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Volunteers Make Our Day!

Deb Malesevich, Museum Director

What makes the Cable Natural History Museum Great?

Our volunteers! They are our stars—they add sparkle and pizzazz. They are a vital part of our community. Over 10,000 volunteer hours were logged by 150 volunteers this past year. Those hours include building exhibits and the mews, selling and growing plants, planting gardens, weeding, cleaning, painting, designing, decorating, writing, greeting, surveying, mowing, hauling, setting up and taking down, washing, tie dying, cooking, baking, stuffing envelopes, licking envelopes and stamps, laminating, and many other “-ings.” Volunteers keep our Museum strong, unique, and the gem of the Northwoods. We lost one of our “sweetheart” volunteers this year when Mary Witt passed away this spring. We will miss her! 🌸



Mary Witt was the Museum's biggest fan. We will miss her energy and enthusiasm! The Museum's new Pollinator Garden is dedicated to Mary. She brought color and sweetness into our lives.

Wayside Wanderings Natural Play Area

Jumping over rocks, building fairy houses, and building a treehouse and willow hut are just some of the activities this summer at the Lois Nestel Property. The Museum is continuing its work to connect children and families to Northwoods nature through free play experiences that inspire wonder, discovery, and responsibility through the Wayside Wanderings Natural Play Area.

Projects are being driven by our amazing volunteers. Paul Kinsel and his sons Gunnar and Zach are building a treehouse in the grandmother tree. Vivianne Hanke is creating a willow hut and tunnel. She also worked with 26 children and their families to establish a fairy village. Jack Moin has mowed and re-established all the hiking trails. Eldon Johnson has created a resource library for field guides and children's books, and spearheaded a rock play area. Jodi Kingdon is artistically creating birds on the recycled building, the “birdhouse” donated by the Steve and Amy Louis family that is being used as a storage and mini-classroom facility.

Over \$2,700 was raised this summer from Museum donors to fund the treehouse and other components of the natural play area. A hand water well pump will also be installed this fall. Our many thanks to the volunteers who have created with us the past two summers in this exciting project! 🌸

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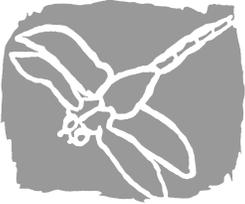
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- Please note that we are now sending out acknowledgement letters for memberships and donations by e-mail instead of by regular mail (unless you do not have an e-mail address) to be more environmentally conscious. Please contact the Museum if we do not have your current e-mail address on file.

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ON THE WEB: www.cablemuseum.org

Membership Has Its Benefits

In addition to supporting the work of the Cable Natural History Museum, Museum members enjoy a variety of benefits, including:

- Free admission to our collections and exhibits
- Reduced rates for participation in our nature and education programs
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- 10% discounts in the Museum Shop
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To become a member of the Cable Natural History Museum visit cablemuseum.org/membership, call 715-798-3890 or complete and mail the form at the right to CNHM, P.O. Box 416, Cable, WI 54821

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