

MESSENGER

Rag Rug Workshop

(Adult Naturalist Program)
January 10

Bat Box Workshop

January 12

Snowshoe Adventure

January 26

Dinner Lecture: The Beauty & Ecology of Land Snails

(Adult Naturalist Program)
January 31



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

Spiders, and Trees, and Coal! Oh My!

By *Emily Stone, Naturalist/Educator*

Every autumn, Museum Naturalists pack up tubs of cool stuff and head into the schools. We visit each classroom in grades K-6 for a 45-minute lesson on some aspect of nature. The MuseumMobile program has been around for a long time, and it is still going strong! Just this year we added Four Corners Elementary in Superior to our circuit. Most of the 10 schools will receive a visit in the winter and the spring as well.

The programs vary from grade to grade. Kindergartners use their senses to explore white cedar twigs, deer antlers, pinecones and a beaver tail. Then they get to explore and learn about a beaver pelt and skull, and a beaver stick.

Finally, they each have the chance to wear a snapping turtle shell on their own back! First graders listen to one of my favorite stories: “How Grandmother Spider Stole the Sun.” Then they discover the differences and similarities of spiders and insects using an interactive Venn diagram.

Second grade was my favorite this year. Last spring, when they were first graders, I taught many of them about photosynthesis when they came to the Museum for a STAR POWER field trip. This year, as we introduced the topic of trees, they could still remember the word photosynthesis, and that its three main ingredients are sun, water, and air. Success!

Third graders learn how living and non-living things work together in an ecosystem, and then they create an interactive food web. On the back of their critter cards are “fun facts,” so they get to

learn that turkey vultures projectile vomit in defense, and wood ticks actually cement themselves to your skin. Ewww!

Fourth graders always have a blast learning about owl adaptations. They get to touch real owl talons and an owl skull, and one classmate dresses up like a raptor. Then, they dissect owl pellets. We find many rodent skulls in the pellets, and compare them to a larger rodent’s big yellow teeth—the beaver!

Fifth graders talk about how all the energy on earth comes from the sun. Then



A second grader carefully draws bark, phloem, xylem, and heartwood on her tree cookie after learning about all the parts of a tree.

we talk specifically about how coal is formed. First, I show them a specimen of club moss or “Prince’s Pine”, which many have seen out in the woods. Then it is story time. “300 million years ago,” I begin as their eyes open wide, “the ancestors of these plants were the size of trees, and they lived in a swamp in Ohio.” We go on to talk about how the trees die and are buried by sediment, and are turned into coal after many millions of years. Finally they mine “coal” out of their own chocolate chip cookie.

We don't get to teach sixth graders at every school, depending on how elementary and middle schools are divided. It's a treat when I get to teach

Continued on page 7

Thank You Volunteers!

July 16 through
December 1, 2012

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Museum Happenings

Collections Grant Update

By Katie Connolly, Naturalist

This summer the Cable Natural History Museum was awarded a \$52,000 Museums for America matching grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Service. We are wasting no time implementing the grant, and you might notice some changes the next time you are at the Museum.

One of the best changes is the hiring of a new part-time staff member. For the fall, winter, and spring we have hired Diane Kraemer as a collections assistant. Diane has been working diligently inspecting, measuring, and documenting some of our specimens. She has made the daunting task of organizing our collections much more manageable!

We acquired a data entry computer, cataloging software, and camera to help us document our collections items. We have set up a workstation in the Museum office, where staff and volunteers can work. Right now we are entering data for our osteology collections, so you will notice lots of skulls adorning the desk.

After the New Year, I will begin participating in distance-learning courses in collections management from the Northern States Conservation Center. The valuable knowledge I gain from these courses will be applied directly to how we manage and care for the collections here at the Museum.

This is just the start of an extraordinary project! Soon to come will be cabinets and cases, new glass doors to the collection room, and much more. Stop in and watch our progress!

Museums for America grants strengthen a museum's ability to serve the public more effectively by supporting high-priority activities that advance the institution's mission and strategic goals. Museums for America is the Institute's largest grant program for museums, supporting projects and ongoing activities that build museums' capacity to serve their communities. For more information on the Museums for America grant and the Institute for Museum and Library Services, visit their website at www.ims.gov.



Master Naturalists Make Waves

By Emily Stone, Naturalist/Educator

Frosty sunshine peeked through the trees as more than a dozen adults pulled on their muck boots and backpacks. Crunching through dry and frozen plants down a slope into a bog, some ventured close to the edge of the floating mat surrounding the small pool of open water. Like monkeys jumping on a bed, they bounced up and down. Their exuberant energy transferred through the floating mat and made waves in the pool.



Cold and happy Master Naturalists also found many insects in the river!

Full of smiles, questions, and hot coffee, this group of Master Naturalist students was thrilled to be on their first field trip. The group has been meeting one evening a week for several weeks, learning about Wisconsin geology, ecology, plants, animals, and much more. Each evening, an expert in the topic gives a lecture and takes questions. Then the organizers facilitate additional educational activities. This series of classes is one of two pilot courses for the brand-new Wisconsin Master Naturalist Program.

Students will end up with a Master Naturalist certification, similar to the Master Gardener program. Then they are required to pass on their knowledge by volunteering with parks, schools, non-profits, and other nature-oriented organizations. The hope is that these highly-trained and active volunteers will continue to make waves in their communities for many years!

This Master Naturalist pilot course is being presented through a partnership between UW-Extension, Northland College, and the Cable Natural History Museum. Once the curriculum is finalized, we hope to hold more courses here in northwest Wisconsin. Contact Emily Stone (emily@cablemuseum.org) for more information!

Museum Happenings



Local photographer Denise Dupras (right) takes a moment to check out the beautiful silent auction items before giving a fascinating talk on loons.

Another Successful Power of the Purse!

The third annual Power of the Purse fundraiser for the Cable Natural History Museum was a huge success! On October 6, at the Lakewoods Resort, one hundred twenty-four women bid on purses and accessories, bought raffle tickets, and listened and laughed as Denise Dupras took them on a post-lunch “Journey with a Loon-a-tic” with beautiful slides and great stories. The event netted over \$11,000 for exhibit development at the Museum. We thank all attendees, those who made donations for the silent auction and raffle, our hardworking volunteers, and the sixteen business sponsors listed on the Museum website. Watch our website for next year’s POP details and join us in our mission to connect people to the Northwoods. 🐾

Men’s Golf Classic

Dr. Tim and Julie Louis hosted a golf event and fundraiser for the Museum at their beautiful “The Other Nine” (TOIX) golf course on September 20, 2012. The purpose of this men’s event was to compliment the women’s fundraiser “Power of the Purse,” and provide financial support for the Museum’s programs and operating costs.

Dr. Louis commented: “The weather threatened, but 40 players participated in the event. It was a very successful fundraiser for The Cable Natural History Museum. A wonderful dinner and awards ceremony followed at Eagle Knob Lodge.”

The Museum board is very grateful to the Louis family and staff for hosting the event. Also, thanks go out to the area golf courses that provided golf package auction items and the golfers that participated. A 2013 golf event is currently being planned. Stay tuned for future details! 🐾



Dr. Tim and Julie Louis admire the whimsical painting of their estate by artist Tracy Taylor. It was commissioned as a thank you gift to the generous couple.

We Rounded-Up lots of Fun and Funds this Summer!

Another exciting Cable Natural History Museum fundraiser event was held on July 28 at Scott and Stacey McKinney’s farm. The event was named “Round-up at McKinney Farm” and was a follow-up to last year’s successful “Jeans and Jewels” fundraiser held at the same location and also hosted by the McKinneys.

More than 350 cowboys and cowgirls walked through an eight foot horseshoe and were greeted by Scott, Stacey, and their horses prior to enjoying such activities as silent and live auctions, carriage rides, panning for gold, photo ops (even John Wayne showed up), and a wheel of wishes.

During the evening, Sheriff Bob Rasmussen and his posse, composed of Bill Hannaford, Bruce Hendry, Jim Miller, and Ralph Owen, kept a vigilant watch for nefarious troublemakers in the crowd. Many, including Ron Anderson, Clayton McKinney, Christa Love, and Blake Bichanich were arrested for various crimes and placed in the jail. Bailiff Nicky Kirby saw to it



Mimi Crandall lent her artistic hand to the event, both decorating herself and tents in style.

Thank You Volunteers!

July 16 through
December 1, 2012

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Ned Zuelsdorff

Continued on page 4

Round Up *(Continued from page 3)*

that each offender raised bail before being released to the general public. Many thanks to all those good sports who were unlucky enough to be arrested, and also to the kind souls who bailed them out!

Following the silent auction and other activities, guests were invited to a chuck wagon dinner catered by Heather Ludzack and her outstanding staff from The Brickhouse Cafe. After dinner, Sheriff Bob, with gun on hip, began the live auction as only he could do. Much laughter and good wine loosened pocketbooks and resulted in spirited bidding.

Deb Malesevich, Museum Director, and Ron Anderson, Board Chair, spoke briefly about the Museum and its mission and to thank all for making the event such a success. All cowboys and cowgirls were then invited to finish the evening dancing to DJ DuWayne Bronson at the dance hall. Only sore feet and the late hour ended the party. When all results were counted, this was the most successful event to date, raising over \$56,000 for the Museum.

For the second year in a row, Anne Miller and Carolyn Owen volunteered their time and talents to co-chair the event and make it a success. They were well supported by committee heads, dedicated volunteers and the Museum staff. Special thanks to Patty Anderson, Live Auction Chair, Mimi Crandall, Silent Auction Chair and Gretchen Hannaford, Vice Chair of the Event.

Also, special thanks to hard working volunteers Gretchen McCarty-Panning for Gold, Patty Berg and Diane McCarty-Live Auction Set-up, Mary Lawton-Wheel of Wishes, Ron Anderson-Beverages, and Beda and Bill McKinney and the Museum staff for all of their help. 🐾



Volunteers Tom and Diane Kraemer greeted guests with huge smiles and bats to match. It takes more than 75 smiling volunteers to make this event possible. Thanks!



The Sheriff Bob Rasmussen and his Posse (Ralph Owen, Jim Miller, and Bill Hannaford) hold a meeting by the jail. Which outlaw will be arrested next?

Joseph Jenkins Lecture Series

By Emily Stone, Naturalist Educator

There are so many interesting people in this area, and so many things I want to learn about, that planning the Joseph Jenkins Lectures is a real treat. The Summer 2012 lectures kicked off with a fascinating talk by Jean Schaeppi, National Park Service Cultural Resource Specialist. After telling us all about the logging and early history of the Namekagon River, she also led a canoe trip on the Namekagon River the next day. We were able to see the remains of old wing dams, homesteads, and a larger dam on Pacwawong Lake south of Cable.

Tom Fitz, Professor of Geology at Northland College, told fascinating stories about a beautiful red and gray striped rock. Banded iron formation, sometimes called jasper, is a mix of iron rich minerals like hematite, magnetite, and red quartz. It only formed during a few short periods in the earth's history, and its formation is related to the release of oxygen from the first photosynthetic organisms. We have a beautiful specimen in the Collections Room that you can come in and see.

Other talks included "The Way of a Canoe" with Alan Craig, Curator at the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum in Spooner; "Stories of the Sun" by Eric Norland of the Arrowhead Astronomical Society; "The Life and Times of Bluegill Sunfish" with WDNR Fisheries Biologist, Dave Neuswanger; and "Leave Some Trace" with Greg Weiss of the Lost Creek Folk School.

Our final of these seven (!) lectures was given by Brian Heeringa, a biological science technician for the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. He gave a delightful talk about what the Forest Service is doing to protect and enhance bird habitat in the National Forest. It was wonderful to get a better understanding of what is happening out there in the woods, and how carefully the Forest Service makes decisions.

As always, the lectures were wonderful community events, and many folks stayed to chat with each other and the speakers. It is a real honor for me to facilitate the lectures, and I already have some fantastic ideas for next summer. I have learned that I need to temper my enthusiasm though, as seven lectures was more than enough. Look for a return to the normal four or five lectures in 2013. See you there! 🐾



Tom Fitz shows off a beautiful piece of banded iron formation at his summer lecture.

Join the Worm Watch!

By Katie Connolly, *Museum Naturalist*

One of my favorite summer activities was catching earthworms for our family's fishing excursions. I loved the thrill of "Nightcrawler Hunting." We would flood the backyard with the garden hose after dark, to encourage the crawlers to wiggle up from deep below the surface. Then we would tiptoe up to the unsuspecting worms, snatch them in our little hands, and put them in an old yogurt container. If we collected more worms than we used to catch bluegills, we dumped them out on the ground or in the water we had just fished in. Earthworms are great for the soil, and fish love to eat them, so it must be okay to release them back into the wild. Right?

Wrong! As a young naturalist, I didn't know that earthworms are considered an invasive species. I didn't know that could alter native habitat. And I certainly didn't know that earthworms may be the reason why populations of songbirds are struggling to grow.

The truth is there are no earthworms native to the upper Midwest. They hitched a ride here from European settlers, and have been transported all over the country by hitching a ride in transported soil. Their eggs can hide in small balls of dirt attached to vegetables, wheels, or potted plants. Earthworms are a popular fish bait, so many unsuspecting fishermen would release unused earthworms next to lakes and raise them in their yards.

Native earthworms do a great job as decomposers in forests. They ingest old, decaying leaves and plant matter, and produce nitrogen-rich compost. This is why they get the reputation as being a friend to gardeners. However, in a northern hardwood forest, trees and wildflowers rely on a thick duff layer of old leaves to thrive. The leaves hold in moisture, prevent erosion, and provide habitat for insects and small mammals. The Ovenbird is a ground-nesting bird that counts on using the duff to hide its eggs from predators. When earthworms are introduced to a forest, they can reduce this layer to almost nothing, putting the forest ecosystem in peril.

Once earthworms are in a forest, there is not much we can do to remove them. We CAN, however, prevent their spread.

- If you're an angler, use up all your worm bait. If you can't use it up, freeze the container for a month to kill the worms and then throw it out in a landfill. Don't dump unused worms!
- If you compost with worms, make sure the castings are worm and egg free by freezing it for a month. A helpful tip is to collect the compost at the beginning of winter into plastic buckets, then place outside to freeze. Thaw it out in spring and you're ready for planting season!
- If you are moving soil on your property, don't transport it away from your site. Be careful when buying soil from somebody else: make sure it is local soil.

Another great way is to participate in a citizen project at the Cable Natural History Museum by joining our Worm Watch! We are participating with the Great Lakes Worm Watch to survey our soil around Cable for invasive earthworms. We sample plots using the "mustard extraction" method, collect the crawlers, and send them in for identification. Knowing what species of earthworms are in our area and how many will help scientists understand how earthworms are affecting our native forests. It's a lot of fun, and you might feel like a kid again as we go hunting for those worms!

We'd love your help on April 6th, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., as we sample plots at the Museum! For more information, please contact me at the Museum by calling 715-798-3890 or emailing me at katie@cablemuseum.org. I hope to see you as we collect worms for science! 🐛



Our Mission:

Connecting people to Northwoods nature through educational experiences that inspire wonder, discovery, and responsibility.

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A Step Back in Time: Gala Picnic is Slated for The Museum's Big Summer Event

Take a step back in time at this summer's auction/dinner. The 2013 event will be a gala picnic celebrating the Uhrenholdt Farmstead and its history. Robert Olson is inviting everyone to his family's beautiful home beneath the mighty white pines for a marvelous evening of live music, live and silent auctions, wonderful food, and friends. Olson's grandfather, Soren Uhrenholdt, promoted reforestation and stewardship by highlighting the value of growing of trees for wildlife habitat, clean water, and recreational activities.

Our heads are spinning with ideas to make this a year's event even more successful and fun. Mark your calendar now for Saturday, July 27, 2013. Festivities will begin at 4:00 p.m. 🐛

Living Light Photo Contest Honors Local Photographer

Local photographer and naturalist, Seddie Cogswell, was a self-described “student of light.”

“Morning light is my favorite subject,” Seddie once said. “Light is the only thing your camera sees. The subject you are photographing can be a birch grove or a loon on a lake, it doesn’t matter. If the light is right, the subject matter doesn’t make any difference to me.”

Seddie Cogswell photographed Northwoods scenic visions for 40 years. He owned and operated the Gallery in Cable for 13 years where he sold art of local artists. After he retired from running a business, he sold his photographs at art galleries in Ashland, Bayfield, Hayward, Chippewa Falls and Duluth.

Memorial money, given to the Museum in Seddie’s name, allowed us to honor his memory with a photo class and photo contest. We were able to purchase six easy-to-use digital cameras for use in a Youth Photography Class in June. With the help of local photographer, Dale Thomas, and Museum Naturalist Emily Stone, the students learned to frame photos and use light to highlight subjects. Then they all participated in artistic critique of their photos.

The Museum also hosted the Living Light Photo Contest in Seddie’s Honor. Many talented local amateur photographers entered in three categories (Child, Teen, and Adult), and made photos focusing on living things and natural processes powered by light from the Sun. All the winners and honorable mentions were displayed in the Museum Classroom from September 29, 2012 through January 5, 2013. An array of Seddie’s photos were on display concurrently.

Awards were given at the opening reception on September 29, and it was especially wonderful to see the kids get so excited about their art. Seddie’s daughter, Cas, shared that her dad would be so humbled and proud that an event in his honor was able to bring a group of people together to share their passion for the beauty and wonder of the natural world. 🐾



Above: Lenora Ludzack’s photo, “Butterfly Treats,” won first place in the adult category.

Below: This image of fern fiddleheads won Alexis Nestel first place in the child category.



Cable Natural History Museum 2013 Business Members

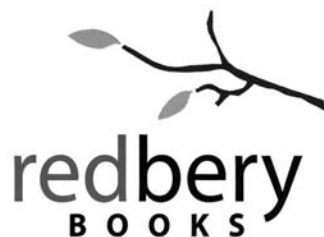
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A falling snowflake may take up to two hours to reach the ground.

A Bewitching Girls' Night Out at the Museum

All Hallows Eve at the Museum saw over 50 women in costume celebrating in spooky and innovative style. It was a very special night at the Haunted Museum. Three very scary witches greeted folks at the door, while many more witches prowled the halls inside. Guests heard tales from beyond the grave, had their faces painted, and voted on the best costume, and participated in magic.

Women from all over the Cable /Hayward area and beyond gather at least once a month for fun, good food, conversation, and networking. Halloween was the Museum's opportunity to host a "Girls' Night Out." Jim Brakken read ghost stories from his new book *Dark*. Diana Randolph, a.k.a. The Magical Marvel, enticed guests to assist her in a meaning-filled magic show. Her creative hands also painted many a face with small witches, devils and bats.

It was truly amazing to see so many women all decked out in very imaginative costumes. Those whose took the dare to dress up came as characters like: Fifty Shades of Gray, a bed bug, a duck hunter, a deviled egg, a cross country runner, a skunk, Chef Chlorophyll, the Easter Bunny, many witches, and an angel or two. Mrs. Bear won the costume contest. We still do not know who was under the mask, because she stayed in character all night. Rumor has it that she felt right at home in the Bear Den in the Curiosity Center of the Museum's Exhibit Hall.

This Halloween Girl's Night Out was a perfect opportunity for the Museum to host a great group of women who know how to have fun! 🦊



Above: Three witches greeted visitors at the door.

Below: Mrs. Bear felt right at home in the trees and Bear Den in the Curiosity Center.




Spiders, Trees, and Coal (Continued from page 1)

a sixth grade class about symbiosis. Parasites are especially fascinating, and gross. Did you know that a huge wasp called a "cicada killer" will stun a cicada, carry it off to a hole in the ground, and lay eggs on it? When the wasp larvae hatch, they eat comatose cicada for breakfast.

After the holidays, I will be visiting schools for the second round. The winter lessons include bats, wolves, bird language, and dissecting goldenrod galls. It is wonderful fun, and hard work, to make sure the lessons inspire wonder, discovery, and responsibility for Northwoods nature. 🦊





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"He-chuck" and "she-chuck" are the respective male and female names for the woodchuck.

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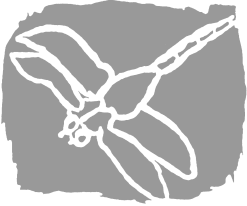
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In addition to supporting the work of the Cable Natural History Museum, Museum members enjoy a variety of benefits, including:

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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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