



18th Annual

**NORTHWOODS  
BIRD & WILDLIFE  
FESTIVAL**

May 12 & 13, 2023

**FESTIVAL GUIDE**

## Friday, May 12

### 5:00PM - WELCOME RECEPTION W/ APPETIZERS/DESSERTS

Join us in kicking off the 18th Annual Northwoods Bird and Wildlife Festival with light appetizers, desserts, and a cash bar before the evening presentation in the NLDC Main Lodge.

### 6:00-7:00PM – PRESENTATION: JEFF WILSON, *WRONG TREE*

If you're interested in bears, loons, wolves, or coatimundis, come to the Discovery Center's Lodge to hear phenomenal storyteller and adventurer Jeff Wilson share tales about his 40+ year career studying wildlife as captured in a published memoir! This program will also feature a display of original illustrations by his wife, Terry Daulton.

**About the speaker:** *Jeff Wilson grew up on a family farm in Linn County, Iowa. He fell in love with the land as he tramped the woodlots and creeks near his rural home, rode horses in the moonlight and bonded with animals domestic and wild. Adventure lured him to the Northwoods of Wisconsin where he found his true passion, the wild country and animals of the Lake Superior region. His 30+ year career as a wildlife technician for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources found him moving problem bears and beaver, assisting with research on loons, eagles and osprey, aging deer and conducting wildlife surveys. He learned to be at home in an eagle nest at the top of a super canopy white pine, driving the rugged forest roads tracking furbearers, and spending nights under the stars banding loons. His vocation went beyond the 40-hour work week, and included wildlife projects in 6 countries and 5 states from the Arctic tundra to the mountains of Nepal. Wrong Tree Adventures in Wildlife Biology is his first full length book. He has written for a number of popular publications, created educational materials and co-authored technical papers. He currently spends his time between his island cabin on the Turtle Flambeau Flowage and Lake Superior, adventuring with his wife, artist illustrator, Terry Daulton, his grandchildren, and many friends featured in Wrong Tree.*



## Saturday, May 13

### 5:30-6:00AM – BREAKFAST AND REGISTRATION

The registration table will be up and running at 5:30am near the NLDC Main Lodge. You must stop by to get your name badge, registration bag, and other information for the day.

### 6:00AM-8:00AM – BIRD BANDING DEMONSTRATIONS

Stop by the bird banding tent when the nets are open to see Bruce Bacon demonstrate techniques for live bird banding. See birds up close and learn about how banding research is important for survival, productivity, and distribution of birds. You may even have an opportunity to release a bird once it's been banded!

**About the leader:** *Bruce is a graduate of UW Stevens Point in Biology & Wildlife Management and worked 34 years for the Wisconsin DNR in Wildlife Management & Research. He first banded birds in 1976 for the DNR and is currently a Master Bander having banded over 130 species and 45,000 birds in Wisconsin.*



### 6:00AM- 7:00AM – SUNRISE WARBLER WALKS

These short hikes are a great way to catch some early birds! View and listen for bird activity around NLDC's Big River Trail, Bog Trail, or Interpretive Trail at the busy hours of the morning. Routes will be assigned by color at registration. Physical activity level: Relaxed, 1-2 miles of hiking over gentle terrain

#### **About the leaders:**

*Jenna Richardson first became interested in birding while living and working in Yellowstone National Park in 2015. It was there she discovered the amazing adaptations of avian species in varying habitats. After leaving Yellowstone, Jenna lived near the Boundary Waters on the Gunflint Trail, where she worked as a Naturalist Guide and immersed herself in the wonders of the boreal forest. Jenna received a BS in Communications with a minor in Anthropology from Ohio University and plans to return to school this fall to begin taking courses online in Botany.*

*Colleen Matula grew up in the wilds of Michigan's Upper Peninsula which instilled a deep love for the Northwoods. After receiving a BS and MS in Natural Resources, she worked for the US Forest Service, Ottawa National Forest, for*



ten years and then retired after 22 years from the WDNR as a Forest Ecologist/Silviculturist. Here she helped develop many silviculture management guidelines and educated landowners and forestry professionals in Wisconsin, Upper Michigan and Minnesota. She spends much of her time outdoors making maple syrup in the spring, birding, botany and fishing adventures in the summer, hunting in the fall and nordic skiing in the winter.

Frank Schroyer is the Land Conservation Associate for Northwoods Land Trust. He has been birding since 2017, when he discovered his passion for the hobby while working as a technician for the Milwaukee County Parks. There he was tasked with conducting point count surveys throughout the parks system and was hooked when he found out how exciting it can be to find uncommon species, like the Northern Shrike. Frank lives in Eagle River, where he enjoys canoeing, hiking, fishing, and of course, birding, during his free time.

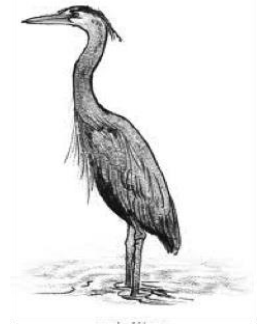


## 7:30AM-11:00AM – CONCURRENT FIELD TRIPS

- **Iron County Hotspots:** This field trip led by Zach Wilson will head deep into the wilds of north central Iron County to visit an amazing diversity of forest types from old growth hemlock hardwoods to tamarack keg swamps to early succession aspen stands. Zach will lead you on the hunt for gray jays, spruce grouse, northern goshawk, and more!
  - o *Physical activity level: Moderate - short hikes over rolling terrain*
  - o *Transportation: Carpool in NLDC Van*
  - o *About the leader: Zach Wilson, Naturalist/Conservation Specialist and owner of Northwood Learning Adventures, based out of Northern Wisconsin. He has been a sub-permitted bird bander since 2001 and has worked for over 20 years banding and researching birds. From Northern Wisconsin to as far away as Nepal, Zach has been a part of many bird research projects including research on snow geese in Churchill Manitoba, survey work on the influence of residential development on nearshore forest and aquatic ecosystems, golden wing warbler atlas survey, organized and conducted bird surveys for the Lac Du Flambeau tribe. Since 1999 Zach has coordinated a long-term research project on the common loon and artificial nest platforms. As a naturalist, Zach has shared his passion for birds with hundreds of adults and children throughout the years.*



- **Turtle Flambeau Flowage Driving Tour:** Join guides Terry Daulton and Jeff Wilson as they take you to several prime birding spots around the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage Scenic Waters Area. You will drive between birding locations, stopping periodically to get out and view both shore and woodland species. This trip will involve limited hiking and is a good option for those interested in a relaxing birding experience.
  - *Physical activity level: Relaxed - mostly driving with occasional short walks*
  - *Transportation: Carpool in Camp Jörn Van*
  - *About the leaders can be found on page 2*



- **Powell Marsh:** Head out to Powell Marsh with lifetime birder John Bates to explore one of the best spots for a variety of species from waterfowl to shorebirds to sparrows. You'll have time to explore some of the less traveled parts of the marsh as you search for birds and wildlife.
  - *Physical activity level: Moderate - 2-4 miles over gentle terrain*
  - *Transportation: Caravan/carpool in participant vehicles*
  - *About the leader: John Bates is the author of 10 books and a contributor to seven others, all of which focus on the natural history of the Northwoods. He's worked as a naturalist in Wisconsin's Northwoods for 32 years, leading an array of trips and giving talks all designed to help people further understand the remarkable diversity and beauty of nature and our place within it.*



- **Beaver Creek Hemlocks Conservation Area:** This spot is a 257-acre property owned and managed by Northwoods Land Trust. Located in the Town of Sherman in the Springstead area of Iron County, a new 2.5-mile hiking trail meanders through a variety of habitat types sure to hold a great variety of bird species. From open cattail marshes, spruce bogs, and tamarack forest to old-growth hemlock and mature sugar maple, this property has the potential to play host to many migrating birds in May. Participants will be hiking the trails at a slow pace with frequent stops to look and listen. There may be some short off-trail detours.
  - *Physical activity level: Advanced - up to 2.5 miles over uneven trails while stopping frequently*
  - *Transportation: Caravan/carpool in participant vehicles (parking area is very small)*
  - *About the leader can be found under the "Sunrise Warbler Walks" section*

- **Pipke Park (Presque Isle Ponds):** Take a tour of a true Northwoods hidden treasure with forestry expert Colleen Matula. You'll hike around the ponds of Presque Isle, a little known birding hotspot that provides opportunities to view both shoreline and woodland bird species.
  - *Physical activity level: Relaxed - mostly driving with occasional short walks*
  - *Transportation: Caravan/carpool in participant vehicles*
  - *About the leader can be found under the "Sunrise Warbler Walks" section*



**11:00AM-12:00PM – LUNCH AT NLDC PROVIDED BY MARTHA KELLY CATERING**

**12:00PM-1:00PM – KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: BILL VOLKERT, BIRD MIGRATION**

One of the most fascinating aspects of the lives of birds is their ability to migrate thousands of miles as they follow the changing seasons. This presentation will explore the annual migration of birds, their seasonal phenology, and explore recent studies that are revealing more information and instilling greater wonder over the phenomenon of bird migration. Birds not only come and go with the seasons but they do so in the same order every year. This program will provide an insight into why birds migrate and the orderly succession of species that arrive in Wisconsin each spring.

**About the speaker:** Bill worked as the naturalist and wildlife educator for Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources at Horicon Marsh for 27 years, where he conducted more than 3,700 education programs for over 220,000 people. He has been watching and studying birds for 50 years and in his travels has sighted more than 4,200 species. To facilitate his studies, he is also a federally licensed master bird bander, with the Bird Banding Laboratory of the U.S. Geological Survey. Bill shares his experiences and understanding of the natural world through lectures, presentations, field trips and the media. He has been a regular guest on Wisconsin Public Radio for more than 30 years with over 200 appearances as Wisconsin's bird expert. He is also working on several writing projects that will give these presentations more permanence and reach an even wider public.



## 1:15PM-2:15PM – CONCURRENT SESSION 1

- **Raptors of the Northwoods Wildlife Center with Bart Kotarba:** Leave your binoculars in the car! Bart Kotarba from the Northwoods Wildlife Center in Minocqua will feature live birds of prey in this session. You will learn about the natural history of some of the species that call the Northwoods home and hear about the center's efforts to rescue and rehabilitate them.
  - *Location: NLDC, Forest Classroom*
  - *About the organization: The Northwoods Wildlife Center is a 501 (C)(3) organization working toward a better future for wildlife through education, research, and rehabilitation. The NWC's experienced staff of wildlife rehabbers and environmental educators continues to ensure all animals are cared for and treated in the most ethical and humane way. Their educational programs are designed to be informational and interesting for all ages.*
  
- **Nature Sketching with Terry Daulton:** Artist, biologist and illustrator, Terry Daulton, will lead a nature journaling workshop with a focus on birds and beautiful Northwoods habitats. She will share techniques in ink and wash pencil, and use of color. Participants should be bring a notebook for drawing and a pencil as well and any preferred art materials like watercolor, colored pencil, marker etc. Terry will share charcoal and ink supplies for anyone wanting to try those mediums.
  - *Location: NLDC, Pavilion behind the main lodge*
  - *About the leader: Terry Daulton, Jeff Wilson's intrepid partner for over 25 years, specializes in environmental education. Her work often crosses boundaries between the arts and sciences, creating traveling art and science exhibits. Her fine art, mostly pastels and printmaking, can be seen in galleries in northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. She has illustrated a number of books, publications and interpretive exhibits in scratchboard and ink. She volunteers as coordinator for the art/science collaboration Drawing Water, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Limnology field station at Trout Lake. She is also a founder of the conservation organization Wisconsin's Green Fire which works to promote use of science in natural resources policy.*



- **Let's Design a Butterfly Garden with Mary Nelson:** We will take a close look at a backyard butterfly garden plan which incorporates some of the best native Wisconsin plants, from host plants to nectar plants. We will discuss how to plant and care for the garden, and what additional features to include to best provide for butterflies, such as warming surfaces and puddling stations.
  - *Location: NLDC, Teal Cabin*
  - *About the leader: Mary has been passionate about native plants and pollinators ever since attending a pollinator workshop presented by the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation in 2012. Since that time, Mary has started over 60 varieties of native Wisconsin plants from seed, donated hundreds of plants to organization fundraisers, done numerous presentations on pollinators and how to support them, and helped homeowners establish pollinator gardens in their backyards.*



## 2:20PM-3:20PM – CONCURRENT SESSION 2

- **Raptors of the Northwoods Wildlife Center with Bart Kotarba:** Leave your binoculars in the car! Bart Kotarba from the Northwoods Wildlife Center in Minocqua will feature live birds of prey in this session. You will learn about the natural history of some of the species that call the Northwoods home and hear about the center's efforts to rescue and rehabilitate them.
  - *Location: NLDC, Forest Classroom*
  - *About the organization: The Northwoods Wildlife Center is a 501 (C)(3) organization working toward a better future for wildlife through education, research, and rehabilitation. The NWC's experienced staff of wildlife rehabbers and environmental educators continues to ensure all animals are cared for and treated in the most ethical and humane way. Their educational programs are designed to be informational and interesting for all ages.*
  
- **Turtles of Wisconsin with Hannah Gargrave:** Join NLDC Naturalist Hannah Gargrave as she talks about species of turtles native to the area, and meet some live ones, too! You'll also learn ways to help protect turtle nests that are near your own home.
  - *Location: NLDC, Water Classroom*
  - *About the presenter: Hannah has been a naturalist at NLDC for over a year now, and graduated from UW-Stevens Point with a degree in Wildlife Ecology and Management with minors in captive wildlife and biology. Her education and experience is rooted in Wisconsin, and she has always been drawn to water and all the creatures that live in and around it, especially reptiles and amphibians.*





- **Introduction to Limnology with Carol Warden:** This presentation will outline the basics of the inner workings of our northern lakes. It will cover what happens when the seasons change, different types of fish, bugs, plants, and zooplankton you may find in your lake, and what a healthy lake looks like in the Northwoods.
  - Location: NLDC, Tadpole Classroom by the lake
  - About the presenter: *Carol is a research scientist with the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Trout Lake Station, located in Vilas County. She maintains long term data for seven lakes that include parameters around water chemistry, fish populations, zooplankton populations, sedimentation rates, water levels, algae abundance, and ice cover duration. Carol received her master's degree in Water Resources Management at UW-Madison's Nelson Institute for Environmental Study. Prior to her work in freshwater, Carol served in the US Navy for five years aboard an aircraft carrier as a photographer. She spent her formative years in northeast Wisconsin, swimming, building forts, and riding bikes. Carol continues to enjoy the outdoors spending all her free time canoeing, skiing, ice skating, hiking, swimming, and paddle boarding.*
  
- **Understanding Butterflies with Mary Nelson:** Who doesn't want to attract butterflies to their backyards? Understanding the behaviors and life cycles of butterflies will better prepare you for creating a habitat where they will thrive. After discussing general behaviors and needs of these winged beauties, we will take an in-depth look at the very interesting and sometimes quirky life cycles of four Wisconsin butterflies; Monarch, Black Swallowtail, Mourning Cloak and Common Wood Nymph.
  - Location: NLDC, Teal Cabin
  - About the presenter can be found on page 7



## 3:30: Grand species tally

Gather back in the main lodge before you leave to find out the total species encountered during the festival!



**THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF SUCH AN ICONIC EVENT! SPECIAL THANKS TO THE DISCOVERY CENTER BIRD CLUB AND ALL THE OTHER VOLUNTEERS AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT HELPED MAKE THIS FESTIVAL A SUCCESS.**

