

8th Annual Birding Festival

Friday May 18 – Saturday 19, 2012



P.O.Box 237, Manitowish Waters, WI 54545 (715)543-2085 contact@discoverycenter.net www.DiscoveryCenter.net

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

Schedule of Events Overview

Friday, May 18th		
5:30pm	6:30pm	Welcome Reception
6:30pm	7:30pm	Mariette Nowak: Author of "Birdscaping in the Midwest"
Saturday, May 19th		
6:00am	7:30am	Sunrise Warbler Walks
7:00am	7:45am	Bagel, Fruit, Coffee, and Juice Bar
8:00am	11:30am	FIELD TRIPS
		Birding By Canoe
		Bogs and Backwoods of the Discovery Center
		Fallison Trails Birding and Naturalist Hike
		Frog Lake and the Manitowish River
		Little Turtle Flowage Hike
		Niche Comparisons: Old Growth and Managed Forests
11:30am	12:15pm	Lunch and Announcements
12:15pm	1:00pm	Keynote: Bill Volkert
1:15pm	2:10pm	Program Session A
		Northern WI Sparrows
		Does Your Backyard Matter for Helping Birds?
		Citizen Science: How You Can Help Your Local Birds
2:20pm	3:15pm	Program Session B
		Warbler ID
		Great Horned Owls
		Optics Choices for Great Bird Photography
3:30pm	4:00pm	Meet and Greet - Share the sightings of the day
3:45pm		Raffle drawings/ Silent Auction Pick up
4:00pm		Closing/ Thank You

7am - 3:30pm Raffle Viewing and Ticket Sales, Silent Auction Bidding, Store Sales

7am - 3:30pm Live Bird Banding Demos

8-11:30am Workshops: Building a birdhouse, Bird seed

1:15-3:30pm Workshops: Building a birdhouse, Bird seed

Program Descriptions

Friday, May 18

5:30 – 7:30PM Friday Evening Reception, Hosted by the Discovery Center Bird Club

In the Main Lodge of the Discovery Center. The Bird Club hosts the event and provides complimentary appetizers and a cash bar. You will have time to visit with participants and the presenters and preview the wonderful raffle items available. A presentation by Mariette Nowak, author of *Birdscaping in the Midwest*, will entertain and educate on effective and beautiful ways to use native plants to create bird habitat in your backyard.

Saturday, May 19

7:00AM – 3:30PM: Ongoing All Day Events

Raffle and Silent Auction Item Viewing:

Take a stroll among the amazing items up for grabs anytime throughout the day. All proceeds go to support the citizen based research and bird programs of the Discovery Center. Auction closes and raffle drawing occurs at 3:45pm. Must be present to win.

Live Bird Banding Demo with Bruce Bacon:

Master bird bander Bruce Bacon will have nets up throughout the day and will show the process and technique behind this important avenue of bird population studies. Get hands-on contact with many of our wonderful northwoods birds. It's an experience you won't forget!

Build Your Own Birdhouse and Bird Seed Recipes:

We will have all the tools and materials you need to create your very own birdhouse to take home and enjoy! We'll also have the seeds and recipes available to attract an array of species and guilds.

Discovery Center Store:

Items including books, bird seed, bird-friendly coffee and more available for purchase. All proceeds go to support the citizen-based research and bird programs of the Discovery Center.

6:00 – 7:15AM Sunrise Warbler Walks

Rise and shine and join us for an early morning walk on the grounds of the Discovery Center! Several groups will head out on the different trails of the Center, each led by an avid birder. Enjoy a beautiful morning of birding and some of the best birding of the day.

7:00 – 7:45AM Bagel Bar and Welcome

A healthy breakfast to start off the day offers bagels, a variety of spreads, fresh fruit, juice and water, and coffee. A wonderful way to get geared up for the day!

8:00 – 11:30AM Offsite Field Trips

The Northwoods of Wisconsin has some of the most spectacular birding in the state! We're heading out with local experts to find the birding hotspots and take advantage of the season.

Niche Comparisons Between Old Growth and Managed Forests.

A fascinating exploration into the differences that exist in niche complexity and availability between Old Growth and Managed Forests in the Frog Lake Area. You'll gain a deeper understanding of bird morphology and adaptations in relation to preferred niches and forest types.

Physical Activity Level: Moderate. Expect some hills and rough terrain.

Marsh Birds.

We'll explore marsh and water birds of either Powell Marsh, or the Ponds of Presque Isle (depending on seasonal conditions). This is your chance to see and learn about these fascinating birds and see some of the most beautiful marshlands in the area!

Physical Activity Level: Easy to Moderate. Expect mostly flat with some hills and rough terrain.

Fallison Trails Birding and Naturalist Hike.

Fallison Lake trail is a beautiful, hilly trail that has spectacular views of Fallison Lake within the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest. We will not only be focusing on bird encounters on this hike, but a Discovery Center naturalist will also point out other interesting aspects of wildlife and landscape on this hike.

Physical Activity Level: Moderate to Difficult. Expect many hills and rough terrain.

Little Turtle Flowage Hike.

We'll tour the Little Turtle Waterfowl Management Area. Participants are guided along on an exploration of a hidden treasure and birding hotspot in the Northwoods. The diverse habitat of the flowage promotes a wide variety of migratory and resident wildlife species.

Physical Activity Level: Moderate. Expect some hills and rough terrain.

Frog Lake and the Manitowish River Hike.

Join local birders on a walk through a mature mixed coniferous/deciduous forest, with a stop at Frog Pond. Warblers, woodpeckers, waterbirds, thrush, brown creeper, raptors, and much more. We may stop along the Manitowish River at Hwy 47 for additional marsh and water birds.

Physical Activity Level: Moderate. Expect some hills and rough terrain.

Birding by Canoe

The Manitowish River flows 44 miles through a predominately wooded and wild watershed. Flatwater dominates, three dams alter the flow along its course, large wetlands flourish, and waterfowl and songbirds utilize the river as a migration stopover site as well as a nesting site. We'll slowly paddle a short stretch of the river, stopping very frequently to experience the birdlife and enjoy the calm. Canoes, paddles and life jackets will be provided.

Physical Activity Level: Easy. Participants will need to get in and out of a canoe.

Bogs and Backwoods of the Discovery Center

The Discovery Center has over 63 acres to explore and enjoy. We'll head out to some of the fantastic, yet lesser known parts of the Center. Habitats include bogs, hardwoods, pine groves and open fields. A wealth of bird varieties to enjoy!

Physical Activity Level: Moderate. While mostly gentle terrain it will be about a 6-mile hike.

11:30AM – 12:15PM Lunch and Announcements

Your boxed lunch will include choice of sandwich/wrap, snack-able veggies, cookies, and choice of beverage. Box it up and take it outdoors, enjoying the gorgeous lake views our outdoor amphitheater provides.

12:15 – 1:00PM Keynote by Bill Volkert

Bill Volkert worked as the naturalist and wildlife educator for Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources at Horicon Marsh for 27 years, where he conducted more than 3,600 education programs for over 220,000 people.

1:15 – 2:10PM Afternoon Program Session A

Northern Wisconsin Sparrows - How to ID those Little Brown Birds
Jim Krakowski, Bird Club Member

Does Your Backyard Make a Difference?
Marianne Nowak, author of *Birdscaping in the Midwest*

Citizen Science Opportunities: How you can get involved
Sarah Johnson, Executive Director, North Lakeland Discovery Center

2:20 – 3:15PM Afternoon Program Session B

Warbler Identification – Getting to Know Wood Warblers
Bill Volkert, Keynote Speaker, Horicon Marsh Naturalist

Great Horned Owls: Habitat, History, and meet Orion, the Great
Troy Walters, Naturalist at Trees for Tomorrow

Understanding Optics Choices for Photographing Birds
Azael Meza, Professional Wildlife Photographer

3:30 – 4:00PM Meet and Greet and Closing

Join us in the Main Lodge to share our exciting sightings of the day, visit with presenters and mingle with the other Festival participants. It is also your last chance for raffle tickets and to bid on silent auction items.

At 3:45, we'll have the raffle drawings and silent auction pick-ups.

We will end the Festival with some closing thoughts, and a wrap up to the great weekend.

Mark your calendars for next year's festival!
May 17-18, 2013