

2025 ANNUAL NONPROFIT REPORT

October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025



years of Discovery and Community
1996-2026

 **NORTH LAKELAND
DISCOVERY CENTER**
inspire - discover - connect

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

This year marks a remarkable milestone for the North Lakeland Discovery Center as we celebrate our 30th Anniversary in 2026. For three decades, the Discovery Center has been enriching lives and inspiring an ethic of care for Wisconsin's Northwoods through environmental education, conservation, and meaningful connections with nature. As we reflect on this milestone, we are filled with gratitude for the countless individuals, families, volunteers, members, donors, staff, and community partners who have helped shape the Discovery Center into what it is today.

While our anniversary gives us an opportunity to celebrate our history, this Annual Report focuses on the 2024–2025 fiscal year, covering the period from October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025. The pages that follow tell the story of another year of growth, impact, and progress as we continue to build upon the strong foundation established over the past 30 years.

One of the things that continues to inspire me most is the way the Discovery Center evolves while remaining true to its mission. Over the past year, we expanded educational opportunities for learners of all ages, strengthened our conservation efforts across the region, and deepened our partnerships with schools, organizations, and community members. Whether through a school field trip, a

public program, a volunteer workday, or a quiet walk on our trails, thousands of people connected with the natural world through the Discovery Center.

As I reflect on my second year as Executive Director, I am continually impressed by the passion and generosity that surround this organization. The Discovery Center's success is not measured solely by attendance numbers, programs offered, or projects completed. It is measured by the people who believe in this mission and invest their time, talents, and resources to make it possible.

Looking ahead, I am excited about what the future holds. While much has changed since the Discovery Center was founded 30 years ago, our purpose remains the same: to connect people with nature, inspire curiosity, and foster stewardship of the lands and waters that make the Northwoods such a special place. Together, we will continue building on the legacy of those who came before us while creating new opportunities for discovery, learning, and conservation.

Thank you for being part of our story and for helping ensure that the next 30 years are even more impactful than the first.

Don Anderson, NLDC Executive Director



STAFF MEMBERS

- Don Anderson, Executive Director
- Colette Anderson, Administrative Assistant
- Lydia Dobberstein, AIS Coordinator
- Richie Dollhopf, Lead Conservation Technician
- Lisa Fossum, Finance Manager
- Emily Koester, Marketing/Volunteer/Facility Coordinator
- Rachel Koester, Buildings and Grounds Assistant
- Licia Kuckkahn Johnson, Education Director and Naturalist
- Erin Newton, Accounts & Data Manager
- Jenna Richardson, Naturalist
- Hannah Thorpe, Naturalist & Residential Coordinator
- Jamie VandenLangenberg, Woods & Water Director
- Abby Vogt, AIS Coordinator and Woods & Water Director
- Ryan Wahlgren, Facilities Manager
- Aidan Witthoff, Conservation Technician and Naturalist



"It has been a privilege getting to work alongside such a great team over the past few years. The amount of donated labor hours and financial support from our volunteers, members, and donors has amazed me on an almost weekly basis. It's no wonder the DC has been able to keep growing its footprint and mission in the community and in communities around the state and region. When you have a great mission backed by great community, the result are incredible. We should all be proud of what we have built together here up north."

-Nick Newton, Board Chair



SEASONAL STAFF

- Sabrina Avila, Ecological Restoration Technician
- Luke Bolander, Conservation Technician
- Kara Gordon, Nature Center Assistant
- Lily Grisbacher Conservation Technician
- Janelle Lekies, Land Restoration Technician
- Liz McCloskey, Seasonal Naturalist
- Koen Schultz, Conservation Technician
- Katie Wright, Ecological Restoration Technician

BOARD MEMBERS

- Nick Newton, Chair
- Stephen Russell, Vice Chair
- Gary Engstrom, Secretary
- Doug Scott, Treasurer
- Richard Phillips, Immediate Past Chair
- Steve Budnik, Member
- Rolf Ethun, Member
- Tom Joseph, Member
- Tom Olson, Member
- David Schultz, Member
- Lori Shepherd, Member
- Brent Jelinski, NLS Liaison
- Beth Feind, WDNR Liaison



DISCOVERY VOLUNTEERS

172 volunteers added immeasurable value to the Discovery Center this year!

Our dedicated volunteers contribute in many vital ways, including:

Nature Guides (Front Desk):

Welcoming and assisting visitors at the Discovery Center

Special Events:

Supporting various roles during events throughout the year

Facilities Maintenance:

Helping enhance the aesthetics and upkeep of our grounds and buildings

Administrative Support:

Assisting with data entry and keeping our databases organized and up to date

Citizen Science Surveys:

Providing valuable data to various projects and surveys

Don Anderson
Carne Andrews
Anice Arvidson
Ken Arvidson
Bob Austin
Sue Austin
Bruce Bacon
Casey Baye
Merry Beckel
Penny Benson
Kathy Bentley
Cathy Berch
Jeanne Bergstrom
Linda Billhimer
Kevin Birschbach
Louise Birschbach
Jim Blum
Jim Bokern
Lydia Boufflou
Cheryl Bowen
Arlene Bozicnik
Laura Bradshaw
Shannon Brimmer
Carl Brust
Pat Brust

Steve Budnik
Jon Cassady
Judy A. Cassady
Brian Christus
Kathi Christus
Andy Clark
Becky Cole
Tracy Converse
Martin Coonen
Jack Cooper
Erica Dischinger
Allison Doak
Richard Dollhopf
Roberta Dollhopf
David Donaldson
Susan Draszkievicz
Kurt Eggebrecht
Barb Engstrom
Gary Engstrom
Gee Esslinger
Rolf Ethun
Al Fairfield
Marsha Fairfield
Anita Flantz
Patsy Foley

Marilyn Gabert
Joelle Gallagher
Katie Gargrave
Margaret Gargrave
Tom Gargrave
Cindy Giesen
Lisa Glover
Sandy Goggin
Suzi Hammer
Jean Hanson
Janet Hawkinson
Jerry Hawkinson
Rich Hawkinson
Julie Hellwig
Scott Howells
Michele Jasik
Mary Jenks
Richard Jenks
Jeanne Joseph
Tom Joseph
Rebecca Keenan
Camille Kich
London King
Lyn Kirschner
Ann Koester





"When I first began working at the Discovery Center, I quickly learned how invaluable volunteers are for our organization. From facilitating school groups and cleaning up the grounds to operating our board and planning fundraiser events. NLDC volunteers are an integral part of the organization and have been since its very beginning. These individuals do more than assist the small group of employees at the Discovery Center to achieve our goals, they become familiar faces on our campus for employees, other volunteers, and visitors of our beloved Nature Center. Volunteers of our organization are part of a family, a community, that is inspired and connected by nature, education, and conservation."

-Jenna Richardson
NLDC Naturalist

Emily Koester
Pete Koester
Rachel Koester
Eric Koster
Mary Koster
Kay Krans
Tom Krause
Kurt Landauer
Randy Lang
Darcy Lanz-Sage
Valerie Latz
Connie Lefebvre
Paul Lewandoski
June Lewandoski
Leah Loew
Jacob Loew
Matt Loew
Emily Jane Magyar
Jean Manki
Ed Marshall
Betsy Matz
Eric Matz
Jody Miller
P. Montgomery
Mike Moriarity
Cindy Moriarity
Noelle Muceno
Erin Newton
Harry Newton
Coco Newton
Nick Newton
Emmie Norton
Marcia Obukowicz
Diane O'Krongly

Barbara Olson
Tom Olson
Ann Orwig
Joe Panci
Hedda Patzke
Kevin Peterson
Lori Peterson
Cheryl Pettit
Ross Pettit
Carol Phillips
Richard Phillips
Mary Kay Pilcher
Kathy Podulka
Wendell Podulka
Robert Polic
Mike Porter
Cyndi Radant
Charlie Ray
Mary Ray
Jenna Richardson
Donna Roche
Bill Rowe
Bob Ruch
Judy Ruch
Nancy Russell
Stephen Russell
Meg Sanders
Tim Schmitt
Russ Schroeder
Frank Schroyer
Todd Schultz
Cheri Schultz
David Schultz
Mary Beth Schultz

Steven Schunk
Doug Scott
Libby Scott
Heather Sebero
Amy Sheldon
Lori Shepherd
Robert Silvis
Deb Silvis
Debbie Simek
Steve Simek
Gary Spencer
Gayle Spencer
Elizabeth Stone
Dick Theile
Fred Theisen
Terry Theisen
Wendy Thur
John Thur
Debby Thyssen
Karen Turner
Jamie Van
Randy Veres
Sue Veres
Nicole Villwock
Women's Service
League
Dave Werren
Meg Werren
Debby Wilson
Kath Wilson
Zach Wilson
Marilyn Wittry
Betsy Wulff
JoAnn Zaumseil
Jim Zedler



More than 3,086 hours
dedicated by
volunteers this year!



"I love volunteering at the Discovery Center because I enjoy helping others experience the wonders of nature."

-Betsy Wulff

NATURALIST UPDATE



The past year has brought several exciting wildlife milestones and new traditions to the Discovery Center.

In April 2024, the Wisconsin DNR contacted us about a deceased trumpeter swan found on the Turtle Flambeau Flowage. Naturalist Aidan Witthoff, with help from Woods and Water seasonal staff member AJ Johnson, spent countless hours carefully preserving the bird through taxidermy. Thanks to a generous donation from Rich and Janet Hawkinson, "Cygnus" was unveiled during a celebration in February 2025 and now soars above Discovery Hall, greeting every visitor who enters.

In October 2024, the Discovery Center hosted its first-ever Bat Festival, welcoming more than 200 participants for a free, family-friendly celebration of Wisconsin's nocturnal wildlife. Featuring activities ranging from a blow-up bat cave and games to crafts, cookie decorating,

and encounters with our live ambassador bats, the event was such a success that it has become an annual tradition.

Another highlight came in June 2025 when, for the first time since its installation in 2011, an active chimney swift nest was discovered in the chimney swift tower on campus. This exciting find marks an important success for a species facing population declines due to habitat loss and shrinking insect populations. Thanks to the efforts of the Discovery Center Bird Club, whose members installed the tower more than a decade ago, the structure is finally providing a home for these remarkable aerial insectivores.

These memorable moments reflect the Discovery Center's commitment to fostering meaningful connections with wildlife and inspiring appreciation for the natural world through discovery, stewardship, and education.



"This is the best day ever! I can't wait to come back again!"

– AV-W Third grader

Aidan shows off the trumpeter swan mount.



The first nest in the chimney swift tower!

MASTER NATURALIST

During August of 2025, nine participants completed the Wisconsin Master Naturalist Volunteer Training held at the Discovery Center. The 2025 Master Naturalist Program fostered a diverse group of remarkable volunteers who have contributed in many ways, including developing new educational materials and participating in programs and events. Emily, our Marketing and Facility Coordinator, completed the course in 2025 to enhance her understanding of Northwoods ecology. The dedication of our volunteers exemplifies our ongoing commitment to environmental education and conservation, inspiring the community to take an active role in shaping the Earth's future.



NATURALIST PROGRAMS



- 41 school-based education days with 1,519 students ranging from preK-high school, from over 10 local schools
- 39 Lighted School House Programs (through North Lakeland School's afterschool program) with 313 students
- 60 Traveling Naturalist programs with over 1,900 participants
- For the first time, NLDC was invited to the Minnesota Bat Festival where staff educated more than 1,000 people on the importance of bats
- Throughout the summer of 2025, 14 Eco-series programs were conducted for 140 kids

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

In January 2025, we welcomed back Vanguard School for the third year in a row. The group came with 18 eager students, many of whom had attended previous trips in 2023 and 2024, and 4 adult leaders ready to explore winter in the Northwoods. This trip was unique because the students were able to do something we'd never done with a group before - a cold plunge. After an exhausting day of XC skiing and sledding at Winman Trails, the students wanted to come back to the Discovery Center and take a dip in the ice hole that some of our staff had been using that winter. Many of the students were nervous to take the plunge, but staff members Licia and Emily encouraged them to step outside of their comfort zone and jump in. By the end of the day, each student had worked up the courage to get in the freezing water, even if just for a few seconds. Seeing how our residential programs allow students to test the limits of their comfort zones, discover aspects of themselves that they didn't know existed, and come into their own is a reward in and of itself!



EMERGING PROFESSIONALS PROGRAM

"As someone who was a part of the Emerging Professional Program (previously the Professional Development Program), I know how special this program is. I started as a lake technician in 2022 and found a love for aquatic invasive species and aquatic plants. This program allowed me to discover what I wanted to do with my career, and it eventually brought me back to the Discovery Center to continue the important work of AIS.

The Emerging Professionals Program enables students and recent graduates to get experience in the field to help them discover what their passions are. It helps to bridge the gap between school and working full-time following graduation. This program has brought dozens of recent graduates from all over the country to experience the Northwoods that we all love."

- Abby Vogt, Woods and Water Director



"My time at North Lakeland Discovery Center can only be described as life changing. The community within the job and around the town is very welcoming and open to sharing their knowledge and stories. It was great getting to know the members at lake chain associations and town festivals. The job itself was always on serene lakes with wildlife present. The landscape underneath the water was just as beautiful as well as the little fish posse that followed too. This job has taught me so much about conversation, myself, and what I want to do with the rest of my life."

- Luke Bolander, 2025 seasonal staff

2025 was the first year we added a nature guide assistant to the seasonal staff lineup!

WOODS AND WATER PROGRAM

The new Diver Assisted Suction Harvest (DASH) boat is now in use. The DASH boat has equipment that allows a diver to pull aquatic plants and feed them through a suction tube, to be brought back to the surface of the boat for proper disposal. Throughout the 2025 field season, various volunteers including Kevin, Eric, Randy, and Tim were instrumental in building the DASH boat. They spent more than 100 hours completely redoing the pontoon, mounting equipment, running electrical, and more. The Woods and Water staff are incredibly grateful for all of their work to make the boat possible. The DASH boat will be used for curly leaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil removal in the area lakes.



HIGHLIGHTS:

- Invasive species reported and managed: curly leaf pondweed (CLP), Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM), yellow iris, purple loosestrife, wild parsnip, and spiny water-flea
- 21 populations and 75 lbs of yellow iris removed from Pardee Lake
- About 1,015 lbs of yellow iris removed from the Turtle Chain
- 12 days of EWM hand-pulling on the Manitowish Chain and 23 cubic feet removed
- 10 days of CLP hand-pulling on the Manitowish Chain
- 3 days of CLP hand-pulling on Harris Lake



WOODS AND WATER CONFERENCE

North Lakeland Discovery Center hosted the 2nd annual North Lakeland Woods and Water Conference on April 25, 2025. The event had over 80 attendees who participated both in-person and virtually. There were seventeen presentations highlighting topics from the importance of fire on the landscapes to understanding cyanobacteria in our lakes to creating healthy lakes through healthy shorelines and much more. In the morning, participants were able to go on a bog walk with Naturalist Hannah. In the evening, participants were invited to stay for a social hour to network and discuss what they learned. Thank you to everyone who attended the event.



MEMBER COMMUNITY

We are deeply grateful to our members for their steadfast support. Your commitment plays a vital role in enriching lives and nurturing a strong ethic of care for Wisconsin's Northwoods by strengthening the connections between people, nature, and community.

DISCOVERER \$10,000+

Penny Benson

GUIDE \$5,000

Pat and Robert Buenz
Paul and Robin Chryst

PATHFINDER \$2,500

Micki and Dave Rause

VOYAGEUR \$1,000

Katie and Don Anderson
Barbara Annan
Dan Arndt
Ken and Anice Arvidson
Amy Jo and Richard Aylward
James and Susan Bakke
Paula and Steve Bell
Darlene and Bob Berdan
Kay and Steve Budnik
Lisa and Steve Carter
Ann and Randy Cook
Jack Cooper and Pamela
Maxson-Cooper
Peter Copeland
Kelley and Frank DiLeonardi
Karen and Mike Dixon
Margaret and Daniel
Donoghue
Therese and Patrick Donoghue
Eilene and Peter Dybvad
Gary and Barb Engstrom
Rolf Ethun
Michelle and Chris Gangemi
Joyce and Dan Gavronski
Carol and Otto Gebhardt
Mary and John Gehl
Velma and David Geraldson
Janet and Richard Hawkinson

Cathie and Scott Hernandez
Greg Holt
Anita and Jim Hornbrook
Merrill and Bob Horswill
Mary and Richard Jenks
Ellen and Peter Johnson
J Sterrett and Jeff Johnson
Jeanne and Tom Joseph
Bill Kauffman
Carolyn and John Keeler
Mary and Eric Koster
Kris and Raulf LaMarche
Kurt and Kathleen Landauer
John and Vicki Langer
Sharon and Dave Lukas
Ed Marshall
Margery Mead
Ann Milne
Noelle Muceno and James
Niquet
Diane Muri and John Aldridge
Barbara and Tom Olson
Elizabeth Patric
Carol and Richard Phillips
Judy and Robert Prentiss
Nancy and Stephen Russell
Carrie Ryan
Judy and Bob Schell
Mary and Bill Schwartz
Libby and Doug Scott
Terry and George Smith
Kendyl and Jim Truettner
Bob Twelmeyer
Van Beek Family
Sally von Zirngibl
Kim and Ed Weide
Deborah and Andrej Zajac

EXPLORER \$500

Julie and Ken Alix
Cathy Berch
Bob Duckart
Susan and Gee Esslinger
Tom Folsom and Sara

Muender
Marilyn and Bill Gabert
Colleen Gorrilla
Diana and John Grimmer
Julie and Al Hillery
Donald and Synthia Joseph
Bob and Judy Klauer
Patricia Klein
Marilyn and Jim Martingilio
Margo and Bill Perkins
Anthony Pogodzinski
Jeanne and Steve Regnier
Marti Sande
Mary Beth and David Schultz
Karen and Tom Van Etten
Allen Wittenkeller
Lori Remeika and Craig Wolfe

TRAILBLAZER \$250

Clark Albert and Susanna
Buhmann Albert
Mary and Steve Ales
Carol and Robert Binkley
Patty and Steve Brink
Daryl Carrington and Mary
Myers
Barb and Si Cartland
Annette and Tom Cole
Martin Coonen and Aliza
Gilbert
Patti and Bob Criscione
Pam and Richard Dodge
Roberta and Rich Dollhopf
Phil and Cheryl Eaton
Susie and David Fondrie
Linda and Bob Gleason
Sandra and Jack Goggin
Linda and Ronald Graf
Dawn and Curt Hastings

Peter Hatch
Katie Hein and Tyler Logan
Cathy and Jay Huff
Jessica Joseph and Nick Trenc
Jill and Helen Joswiak
Mary Jung
Bonnie and Greg Kruckenberg
Diane Linn and Kim K
Nemacheck
Noreen and David Lull
Kathy and Thom Mansur
Carrie and Ed May
Mary and Steven Miller
Doug Mullen and Laura
Zeman-Mullen
Brenda and Mike Nelson
Justin Niebank
Jeff and Amy Niesen
Ruth and Bruce Peterson
Sheryl Pethers
Cheryl and Ross Pettit
Becky and Doug Pinney
Rebecca Cole and Michael
Porter
Amy and Daniel Rayala
Christine and Dennis Reuss
Russ Schroeder
Judy Sharken Simon and Chris
Simon
Roberta and Andrew Sisler
Kathlyn and Robert Smith
Tom Spitzfaden
Susan Stephenson
Laura and David Michael Thorp
Dee and Steen Traxler
Meg and Dave Werren
Karen and Jerry Wilke
Emily and Rob Wixson
Suzanne and Mitchell Wolf
Chris and Carl Wolter



ADVENTURER \$100

Trish and Kurt Adam
Linda and Barrett Albert
Karen Anderson
Katie Anderson and Jane Neisendorf
Margaret and Buckshot Anderson
Carne Andrews and Tim Schumann
Angela and Gregg Apostoloff
Lori and Dennis Aukstik
Beverly and David Baar
Jennifer Bahr and John Zillmer
Judy and Al Barry
Sarah and Howard Bass
Teresa and Steven Beardsley
Gerhard Becker and Dianne Wichmann
Ann and Eric Benn
Jeanne and Andy Bergstrom
Susan and John Biedron
Linda and Mark Billhymer
Lydia Bouffiou
Boushelle Household
Cheryl Bowen
Jill and Mike Bowles
Barbara Bowman and Robert Gerritsen
Christine Bremer Muggli and Rachel Bradley
LaVergne and Ed Brodsky
Dan and Diana Buechel
Burgan Household
Nancy and James Burger
Mike and Sally Carey
Patty and Joel Ceille
Patricia and Mark Christensen
Christenson Household
Pat Christie
Scott Christopher
Kathi and Brian Christus
Enid Cleaves
Joel Cler and Marjorie Kenyon-Cler
Rachelle Cota and Jerry Conklin
Christopher Connolly and Elizabeth McNichol
Kitty and Bob Cook
Amanda and Isaac Cowart
Carol and Tom Crowley
Lauren and Hans Dahl
Terry Daulton and Jeff Wilson
Nancy Densing

Carl Destefano and Dena Jersild
Wes Doak and Deborah Wilson
Laurie and Timothy Douglas
Beth and Dorothy Douglass
Jane and Bill Duckert
Joanne and Dan Dugenske
Stephen Eager
Jill and Stephen Eckel
Karen and Jack Edelbrock
Ann and Patrick Egan
Gregg Eichenbauch
Pam and Al Eschenbauch
Eschenbauch Household
Carmen and John Farwell
Carolyn Figlesthale Vogel and Daniel Vogel
Anita Flantz
Joanne and Robert Fredberg
Linda and Tom Gannon
Margaret and Tom Gargrave
Tom Gargrave Sr.
Tracy and Mark Ghiloni
Char and Jerry Glashagel
Megan and Peter Glashagel
Karen and Mark Gleisner
Renee and Frank Groh
Linda and Bob Growney
Corrie and Steve Grummon
Judy and Jerry Gryttenholm
Kathy and Tom Hackworthy
Susanna and Andrew Harris
Jessica Hatch-Johnson
Kelli and Marty Heindel
Denise and Stephen Herzberg
Joan and Dennis Hill
Paula and James Holden
Dawn and Greg Holt
Paul Holtan
Sue and Dan Horton
Lisa and Kevin Hughes
Jim and Jan Ihlenfeld
Amy and Bob Jackson
Lora and Steve Janak
Michele Jasik and Lyn Kirschner
Dena Jersild and Carl Destefano
Andrew Johnson
Mary and Barry Johnson
Sarah and Cal Johnson
Hillary Joseph and Bryon Thornburgh
Kathleen and John Jursa
Sally and Jack Kaiser
Mary and Tim Kamp



Cassandra and William Keeler
Arlene Kellett
Marjorie Kenyon-Cler and Joel Cler
Lauren and Ryan Kieckhaefer
Shirley Klapperich
Holly and Thomas Kobza
Sue and Paul Koehl
Ann and Pete Koester
Beth and Keith Kost
Karl Kost
Ramona Kubica
Faith and Aaron Kurth
Nancy and Doug Lacey
Jay and Mary Lang
Darcy Lanz-Sage and Scott Sage
Stephen and Barbara Larsh
Cindy and Fred Lawton
Sharon and Steve Lefebvre
Connie Lefebvre
Vanessa Haese-Lehman and Mark Lehman
June and Paul Lewandoski
Michele and Chuck Lippert
Susan Loeffler
Denise and Richard Logan
Charles Mara
Patricia Marinac and Sterling Strathe
Paula Marquardt and Jerry Rayala
Cheryl Martin
Betsy and Eric Matz
Lisa and Sean McCaleb
Kelly and Mike McGill
McNichol Household
Kippy and Jeff Meessmann
Sally and James Meier
Mary Melrose
Joyce and Dan Meyer
Mary and Steven Miller

James Moore
Jean and Don Motsinger
Kristin Mundt and Michael Statz
Nancy and James Naylor
Brenda and Mike Nelson
Victoria and Walter Nelson
Newton Family
Gale and Timothy Nickels
Jeanann and Dan Oliva
Carolyn and Jim Opitz
Holly and John Orwin
Heather and Jason Owens
Carole and Peter Paquette
Barb and Richard Parker
Pat Passo
Mary Ann and Richard Pedtke
Pam and John Peters
Joni and Lawrence Petrillo
Pfeiffer Household
Barbara and Randall Phelps
Tom Piikkila and Colleen Matula
Anita and Tinsley Preston
Mary Lou and Lewis Holmes
Raker
Kathrine and John Randolph
Judy Ranney and Robert Latchaw
Jan and Don Rayala
Rene and Brian Rayala
Nancy Rebholz
Recob Household
Cindy and Robert Richards
Janelle and Frederic Robinson
Patience and Charlie Rockey
Tom Romstad and Janice Taylor-Romstad
Helen and John Rossmiller
Sandra Sanborn
Joseph Sanfilippo
Ed and Jean Sattersten
Holly and Jeff Schmaling

Robert Schmidt
 Deyna and Tim Schmitt
 Carol and Terry Schott
 Patti and Donald Schroeder
 Lynn and Jean Schroeder
 Schroeter Household
 Marjean and Mark Schuelke
 Schulze Household
 Margot and Ronald Sersen
 Emily Shannon
 Rod and Myrtle Sharka
 Mid Sharpe
 Amy Sheldon and Tom
 Etheridge
 Lori Shepherd and Scott
 Howells
 Pat Christie and Mike
 Shouldice

Debra and Robert Silvis
 Ronald Skala
 Thomas and Gunilla Skonie
 Christine Slauson
 Slemmons Household
 Pat and Jay Smith
 Judy and Mike Smolarek
 Philip and Kathy Sobocinski
 Georgie and Webb Southwick
 Bonnie and Bill Spear
 Amy and Alex Squitieri
 Kay and Jack Stellpflug
 Barbara and David Stengele
 Elizabeth Stone and Richard
 Theile
 Chuck Stonecipher
 Joy and Chip Stringer
 Terry and Ray Sullivan

Linda and Rick Talentowski
 Terry and Fred Theisen
 Thornburgh Household
 Debby Thyssen
 Joseph and Carol Valaitis
 Wagner Household
 Jean Wiencek and Bill
 Williams and Family
 Nancy and Philip Williams
 Ann and John Wilson
 Wixson Household
 Kim and Jerrold Yencich
 Gay and John Yost
 Walker and Susan Young
 Zarembo Household
 JoAnn and Dean Zaumseil
 Phyllis Zeiss
 Donna and Mike Zierdt



ENDOWMENTS

An endowment is a gift that is invested for long term growth and earnings that permits annual distributions while preserving the principle as a stable foundation for our organization. Our endowments are managed by the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, regarded as the leading statewide foundation for conservation endowments. Because the NRF is a conservation nonprofit organization, even its low administrative fee goes right back to supporting Wisconsin's natural resources.



CURRENT ENDOWMENTS

- Friends of North Lakeland
Discovery Center
- Joe Ilg Sr. and Joe Ilg Jr.
Education Endowment
- North Lakeland Discovery Center
Endowment
- Dorothy Rose Baker Endowment
for Citizen Science
- Esslinger Family NLDC
Education Fund
- Tom and Barbara Olson
Endowment for Outdoor Education

If you are interested in learning more about establishing or contributing to an existing endowment, please contact Executive Director Don Anderson at 715-543-2085 or don@discoverycenter.net.

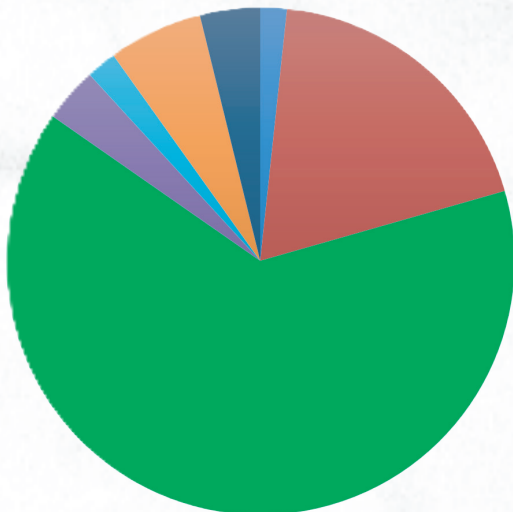
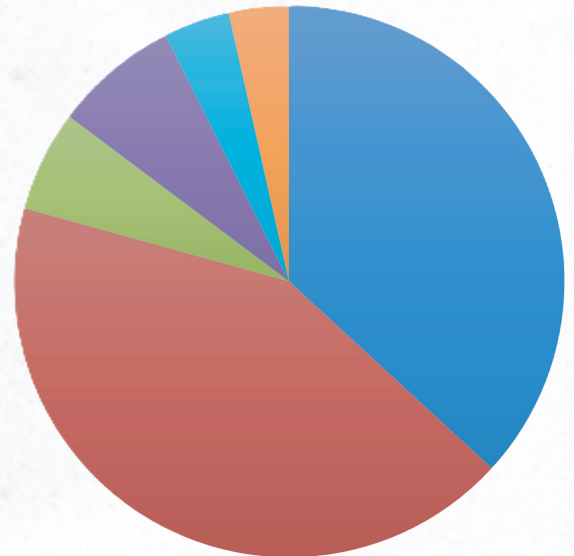


FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Oct. 1, 2024 - Sept. 30, 2025, unaudited results

OPERATING REVENUE \$1,029,643

- Membership & Donations \$379,307
- Programs, Events, & Fees for Service \$436,995
- Grants \$61,251
- Facilities & Trails \$75,762
- Fundraisers \$40,030



OPERATING EXPENSES \$1,076,033

- Payroll, Benefits, & PR Taxes \$690,085
- Administration \$64,855
- Programs, Events, & Grants \$203,120
- Facilities & Trails \$37,730
- Insurance \$41,268
- Fundraisers & Sales \$20,819
- Donors & Membership \$18,156

We reached a milestone in Operating Revenues in FY2024-25 – Our operating revenues and expenses both exceeded \$1 million dollars for the first time. Our operating budget for FY 2024-2025 planned for a deficit of about \$34,000 as a strategic investment to expand programming and services to support our important mission of environmental education and conservation. Our revenues through the year fell short of our budgeted targets, leading to an actual operational deficit of about \$46,000. Despite the operational deficit, as of September 30, 2025, our current assets (essentially cash and accounts receivable) increased to \$865,000. The bulk of these assets were restricted or dedicated to campus improvements, like the Northwoods Forest History Experience and the Maintenance Building and investments in staff.

RENTALS THAT MAKE AN IMPACT

"Our guests had a great time and we couldn't have had a more special place to have our wedding."

-2025 Bride and Groom



The North Lakeland Discovery Center is more than a destination for outdoor education and recreation — it's also a place where people gather to celebrate, learn, and connect. From weddings and family reunions to retreats and overnight stays, facility rentals provide meaningful experiences while generating vital revenue that supports our mission.

Oct. 1, 2024 to Sept. 30, 2025 Rental Impact

- 4 weddings hosted
- 67 other groups hosted
- \$72,628 in rental revenue



Every rental helps strengthen the Discovery Center. Revenue generated through facility and lodging rentals supports environmental education programs, trail maintenance, wildlife exhibits, and stewardship of our 1,300-acre campus. Revenue earned through rentals allows us to diversify funding sources and invest directly in programs, facilities, and stewardship efforts that benefit our entire community.



Red Pine Point was listed on Airbnb in May 2025. Between May and the end of October 2025, there were:

- More than \$12,707 in revenue
- 14 rentals, 34 guests

DONOR COMMUNITY

501 generous donors
contributed to the
Discovery Center this year!

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- 4,039 public program participants
- 539 hours of Clean Boats Clean Waters inspections conducted across 5 lakes
- 49 surveys completed by Woods and Water Dept.