



# FALL 2025 PROGRAM GUIDE

September - October - November



Visit the online calendar to register  
for programs, see full descriptions,  
locations, policies, and more!



**NORTH LAKELAND  
DISCOVERY CENTER**

inspire - discover - connect

# Welcome to the Path of Discovery!

Whether you're a nature enthusiast, a gardening expert, interested in nature & wellness, or just wanting to explore more of the beautiful Northwoods, consider visiting us at North Lakeland Discovery Center!

Nestled in the heart of the Northwoods, North Lakeland Discovery Center is a non-profit nature center and lies within Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest, offering a tranquil escape for outdoor exploration, community events, and connection to the natural world.

Our self-guided exploration activities and recreation opportunities include:

- 🌲 Nature Center with live animal ambassadors
- 🌲 12-miles of multi-use trails
- 🌲 StoryWalk trail, a new book each month
- 🌲 Interpretive gardens to discover
- 🌲 Statehouse Lake access for fishing, swimming, and paddling

Connect with us and the natural world through our upcoming program opportunities.

## Make a Difference With Membership

When you join our membership program, your contribution goes directly to impactful initiatives that promote lifelong learning, outdoor exploration, environmental stewardship, and scientific discovery. Your support helps us maintain our trails, offer community and school nature-based programs for little or no cost, provide self-guided educational resources at our Nature Center, sustain our Animal Ambassador Program for injured wildlife education, and more! Members receive discounts on most programs or attend for free!



## Registering For Programs

Registration can be completed online, by phone, or in person. Visit [www.discoverycenter.net](http://www.discoverycenter.net) for more information on registering or to register for a program. Most programs have a registration deadline. Programs may be canceled if the minimum number of participants has not been met by the registration deadline. Our cancellation policy can be found on our website. Most programs have a wait list available. Call (715) 543-2085 for availability.



# Calendar

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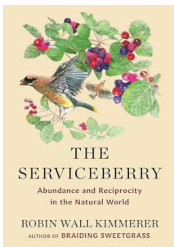
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# NATURAL PAGES READING GROUP

Gain a new perspective on nature with our monthly reading group, Natural Pages, a partnership between the Discovery Center and Koller Library. We will focus on a different nature-based book each month, with discussions led by either Discovery Center or library staff. Free and open to the public. Books will be available for checkout at the library in the weeks prior to the meeting.



## *The Serviceberry: Abundance & Reciprocity in the Natural World*

**Author:** Robin Wall Kimmerer

This book explores the concept of a gift economy, using the serviceberry plant as a metaphor for how human economies can be more sustainable and reciprocal.

**Location:** Discovery Center

*Tuesday, September 16     5 - 6 p.m.*



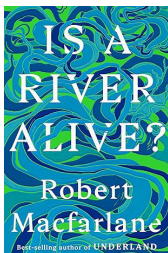
## *Night Magic: Adventures Among Glowworms, Moon Gardens, and Other Marvels of the Dark*

**Author:** Leigh Ann Henion

This book is a celebration of the natural world at night, encouraging readers to embrace the darkness and discover its hidden wonders.

**Location:** Koller Library

*Tuesday, October 14     5 - 6 p.m.*



## *Is a River Alive?*

**Author:** Robert Macfarlane

This book explores the idea of rivers as living beings with rights, not just resources, through journeys to Ecuador, India, and Canada. The book blends nature writing, travel writing, and philosophical reflection, examining how our relationship with rivers shapes our understanding of the world and our own fate.

**Location:** Discovery Center

*Tuesday, November 11     5 - 6 p.m.*





## MINDFUL LIVING IN NATURE

Immerse yourself in nature while connecting with your mind, body, and spirit at the Discovery Center. Yoga classes will be held in our historic YCC Main Lodge. Learn more about these opportunities on our website.

### Lakeside Yoga Stretch

Wherever you are in your yoga practice, this class is for you. Lakeside Yoga is a gently paced class that encourages deep release in the body's major muscle groups. Through mindful stretching, breathwork, and intentional movement, students can increase flexibility, ease chronic pain, and improve their overall range of motion.

Lakeside Yoga also helps build strength and cultivates balance in both body and mind.

Whether you're new to yoga or a seasoned practitioner, you'll leave feeling grounded, refreshed, and restored. All are welcome.

Bring a yoga mat and water.

**Instructors:** Suzi Hammer & Darcy Lanz-Sage

*Saturdays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.*

*No registration required.*

*\$12/session to be paid at the door*

*September 6, 13, 20, & 27*

*October 4, 11, 18, & 25*

*November 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29*



“ Every yoga class is different with thoughtful, inspiring quotes, beautiful music, and variation in the poses we do. ”

*-Barbara Burns, class participant*



# TRAIL EXPLORATIONS

Learn about wildlife, plants, landscape and natural world relationships from expert naturalists, historians, geologists, and ecologists as you hike down the trail. All ability levels welcome. Every trip is a new adventure!

## Marvelous Mushroom Hike at Raven Trail

Join us for a guided mushroom hike at Raven Trail in Woodruff. Along the way, we'll identify mushrooms we find, share tips for recognizing common local varieties, and talk about the vital role fungi play in our forest ecosystem. After the hike, enjoy an optional cup of warming Chaga mushroom tea to cap off the experience!

**Instructors:** Jenna Richardson & Nicole Villwock

*Wednesday, September 17*

*8:30 - 10:30 a.m.*

*Registration deadline: September 15*

*\$30/\$24 member*

## Discovering Wisconsin's Amazing Forestry Legacy: Driving Tour & Short Hikes

Join Manitowish Waters Historical Society Member Jim and Naturalist Licia as we travel from eastern Iron County to the old growth forest surrounding Star Lake. We'll explore both historic and modern forestry sites surrounding the Northern Highland-American Legion Forest. During our travels, we will visit several early sites, including ranger stations,

watch towers, Civilian Conservation Corps camps, state nurseries, a ranger cabin, forest fires, Youth Conservation Corps camps, and more. Hiking will be moderate to light.

**Instructors:** Jim Bokern & Licia Johnson

*Tuesday, September 30*

*10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.*

*Registration deadline: September 28*

*\$45/\$30 member of MWHS/NLDC*

## Fall Wonders of an Old-Growth Forest: Van Vliet State Natural Area Hike

Join Discovery Center Naturalist Jenna for a free interpretive hike through the Van Vliet Hemlocks State Natural Area. We will explore the ecology and history of this ancient landscape while observing the signs of seasonal transition—from shifting leaf colors and late-blooming plants to the ways wildlife prepares for the colder months ahead. This hike is generously sponsored by the Friends of Van Vliet Hemlocks.

**Instructor:** Jenna Richardson

*Saturday, October 4 1 - 3 p.m.*

*Registration deadline: October 2*

*Free*



## Hiking the Trapp Hills of Upper Michigan with John Bates & Mary Burns

The Trapp Hills lay just to the south of the Porcupine Mountains. Their high bluffs, ridge and valley topography, and panoramic views make for beautiful but rugged hiking. Hike length will be about 6 miles over rocky terrain, so hiking stamina and strength are a necessity. We've built in plenty of time to stop and talk about the unique ecology of the area and to simply enjoy the views.

**Instructors:** John Bates & Mary Burns

*Sunday, October 5 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.*

*Registration deadline: October 3*

*\$70/\$60 member*

## North Country Trail Potato River Hike

Join the Discovery Center on a trek down the North Country Trail which offers scenes of the beautiful Potato River and features 3 waterfalls early in the hike.

This hike features very gradual inclines and includes naturalist-led interpretation on the area's geology and ecological significance. A perfect hike for curious minds and waterfall chasers alike! Hike will be approximately 5 miles with variable terrain and rated as moderately difficult.

**Instructors:** Jenna Richardson & Hannah Thorpe

*Saturday, October 25 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.*

*Registration deadline: October 23*

*\$55/\$44 member*



## Bog Trail Family Hike

Join Naturalist Licia as we explore our 2 mile trail that circles through the bog and around Statehouse Lake. What is nature doing to get ready for winter? What trees and plants are around this fun trail? Join us to find out! This hike is geared towards ages 6 and up. Trail is rated easy and we will be going at a slower pace to explore all it has to offer.

**Instructor:** Licia Johnson

*Saturday, November 8 1 - 3 p.m.*

*Registration deadline: November 6*

*\$8/Free for members*





# EXPLORING OUR WATERS

It's no secret the Northwoods is rich in water resources. These programs and experiences will get you on local lakes and rivers, educating you on their fascinating link to local history and lore, ecology and importance. More details on trips can be found online.

## Historic Dillinger Pontoon Tour

Learn what John Dillinger and his gang were really like and the "behind the scenes" story of their weekend in Manitowish Waters as we travel by pontoon to historic Dillinger sites. Enjoy a tour the grounds of the famous Little Bohemia Lodge, the property that was featured in the movie Public Enemies. The tour is led by Manitowish Waters Historical Society (MWHS) member, Kay Krans.

**Instructor:** Kay Krans

*Tuesday, September 9*

*9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. or 12:30 - 3 p.m.*

*Registration deadline: September 7*

*\$60/\$50 member of MWHS/NLDC*

## Writing the Wilderness Paddle

Join Discovery Center naturalist Jenna Richardson with local author and kayaker Mary Anne Smrz on a paddle/hike writing adventure! Participants will get the opportunity to traverse Escanaba by land and water. While on the shore of Escanaba lake participants will be invited to try their hand at writing a drabble, an

essay of exactly 100 words, inspired by the trip.

**Instructors:** Jenna Richardson & Mary Anne Smrz

*Wednesday, September 10*

*9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.*

*Registration deadline: September 8*

*\$30/\$24 member*

## Van Vliet State Natural Area Sunrise Paddle

Begin your morning immersed in the beauty and biodiversity of Van Vliet Hemlocks, a designated State Natural Area known for its towering old-growth trees and pristine shoreline on this sunrise paddle with two of Discovery Center's Naturalists. This paddle is generously sponsored by the Friends of Van Vliet Hemlocks.

**Instructors:** Jenna Richardson & Licia Johnson

*Wednesday, September 24 6 - 8 a.m.*

*Registration deadline: September 22*

*Free*







## ENVIRONMENTAL EVENINGS

Join us for our evening programs to explore diverse environmental topics in a relaxed atmosphere. Led by knowledgeable guest lecturers and Discovery Center staff, these sessions are perfect for winding down after a busy day. Whether you prefer a laid-back or interactive experience, each program offers informative and enjoyable content. Don't miss the chance to socialize and deepen your understanding of our planet!

### Nibbles n Knowledge Series

Join us for our monthly adult lecture series. We will serve light appetizers and have a cash bar from 5 - 6 p.m. and the presentation will run from 6 - 7 p.m. These programs are held in our Historic YCC Main Lodge. For a full description on each program, please visit our website. Please register two days prior to event date.

\$17/\$14 member/\$20 at the door

#### *Historical Fires in Wisconsin*

**Instructor:** Jed Meunier, WDNR Ecologist  
*Thursday, September 11 5 - 7 p.m.*

#### *Plant Habitat for Bugs & Fish in Northern Wisconsin Lakes*

**Instructor:** Dr. Katie Hein, Aquatic Research Scientist  
*Thursday, October 16 5 - 7 p.m.*

#### *Wisconsin Black Bear Project*

**Instructor:** Hayden Walkush, UW-Stevens Point Graduate Student  
*Friday, November 13 5 - 7 p.m.*



### Wild Wisdom Game Night: Only Bats!

Join Discovery Center Naturalists for this fun and interactive Jeopardy-style program. Test your knowledge on all things related to bats! We will serve light snacks and have a cash bar at 5:30 p.m., and the program will start at 6 p.m. Prizes will be awarded to the winning team!

**Instructors:** Licia Johnson & Hannah Thorpe

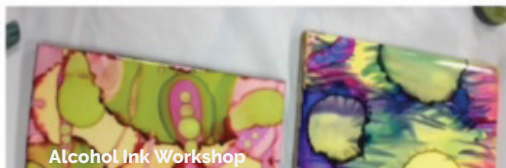
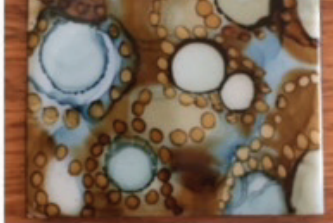
*Tuesday, November 4 5:30 - 7 p.m.*  
*Registration deadline: November 2*  
\$10/\$5 member

### Plant Swap & Potluck

Celebrate community, greenery, and good food at the Discovery Center and Boulder Junction Library's Plant Swap and Potluck! Bring a houseplant or cutting to trade and go home with a fresh new addition to brighten your space and boost your indoor air as the colder months set in.

**Instructor:** Jenna Richardson

*Thursday, November 6 5:30 - 7 p.m.*  
*Registration not required but appreciated.*  
Free



# NATURALLY CREATIVE

Show us your creativity at workshops featuring natural materials, methods, and themes. Each class is an opportunity to learn new skills and techniques from expert instructors in a supportive and inspiring environment.

## Beaded and Leather Cord Bracelet Workshop

In this workshop, participants will make a bracelet duo. One bracelet will be a simple braided cord bracelet; the other a beaded chevron bracelet. While all the bracelets will look similar in design, the participants will have a variety of bead colors to choose from.

**Instructor:** Darcy Lanz-Sage

*Tuesday, September 23 5 - 7 p.m.*

*Registration deadline: September 21*

*\$25/\$20 member/\$15 youth age 12-17*

## Alcohol Ink Workshop

Join local artist and crafter Darcy Lanz-Sage for this fun and creative workshop! Participants will create coasters, small art pieces, and ornaments using alcohol inks on tiles, paper, and glass. See how "fire" can be used for some beautiful organic effects. Discover the magic of alcohol inks! All materials and supplies are provided by the instructor.

**Instructor:** Darcy Lanz-Sage

*Thursday, October 2 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.*

*Registration deadline: September 30*

*\$40/\$35 member*

## Naturally Made: Celebrating Fall

Join our Naturalists for a fall-inspired Naturally Made! This month's workshop will feature: gelli printing with pressed leaves, fall moisturizer for those colder days ahead, and scents of fall votive candles. Participants will get the opportunity to create their very own candle holders to embrace autumn vibes.

**Instructors:** Jenna Richardson & Licia Johnson

*Tuesday, October 21 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.*

*Registration deadline: October 19*

*\$38/\$30 member*



Beaded & Leather Cord Bracelet Workshop



## Wool Felted Bat Workshop

Celebrate International Bat Week by joining artist Mary Burns for this new and fun felting workshop. We will be making needle felted wool bats! We will even have a live bat for you to meet as inspiration! This class will cover basic needle-felting techniques as well as some advanced methods.

**Instructor:** Mary Burns

*Tuesday, October 28 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.*

*Registration deadline: October 26*

\$42 (includes all materials and tools, which you get to keep!)/\$34 (if you have your own felting foam pad and needles)



Wool Felted Bat Workshop

## Holiday Ornament Workshop

The Holiday Season is fast approaching! Let's get together for a fun craft session to make some unique ornaments that are great for giving or for keeping! We will fold German bell ornaments, color glass ball ornaments with alcohol inks and acrylic paint, make cute sheep ornaments using yarn and wool felt, and make a "St. Nick" out of tapestry/upholstery fabrics.

**Instructor:** Darcy Lanz-Sage

*Saturday, November 15*

*11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.*

*Registration deadline: November 13*

\$25/\$20 member



Holiday Ornament Workshop

## Felted Woodland Gnome Workshop

Make a friend for fall! We will make needle felt whimsical 3-D gnomes with wool fleece, decorate them with moss and little mushrooms, and attach them to wood cookie bases. Come join the fun! This class will cover basic needle-felting techniques as well as some advanced methods.

**Instructor:** Mary Burns

*Saturday, November 22 1 - 4 p.m.*

*Registration deadline: November 20*

\$42 (includes all materials and tools, which you get to keep!)/\$34 (if you have your own felting foam pad and needles)



Felted Woodland Gnome Workshop



## WILDLIFE INSIGHTS

Explore the fascinating realm of wildlife with captivating programs, workshops, and insightful encounters. Discover the beauty, uniqueness, and marvels of our native animals.

### Bird Club Program: Forestry for the Birds

Providing quality habitat for birds is critical for their survival. For birds to thrive, they need food, shelter, protection from predators, and a place to raise their young. Colleen Matula, Forest Ecologist with the Wisconsin DNR, will help us learn what landowners and others can do to support our feathered forest friends. There will be a club business meeting at 6:30 p.m, followed by the presentation at 7 p.m.

**Instructor:** Colleen Matula

*Monday, September 8 6:30 - 8 p.m.*

*No fee or registration required*

### Bird Club Program: The Grand Wisconsin Birding Tour

Jeff, along with his friends Jon Dunn and Tom Schultz, led a group of ornithologists around Wisconsin to enjoy some of the best birding our state has to offer. The journey included the Mississippi River, our Northern boreal forests, and the famous Horicon Marsh. This program will highlight their birding stops and what they saw. There will be a club business meeting at 6:30 p.m, followed by the presentation at 7 p.m.

**Instructor:** Jeff Baughman

*Monday, October 6 6:30 - 8 p.m.*

*No fee or registration required*

### Animal Spotlight Hour

Drop in the Discovery Hall during the hour to explore animal artifacts, learn fun animal facts, and ask a naturalist your wildlife questions.

*10 - 11 a.m.*

Suggested donation \$5/family

### Slugs

*Saturday, September 27*

### Badgers

*Saturday, October 25*

### Foxes

*Saturday, November 22*







# FAMILY NATURE CONNECTIONS

Hit the road and visit the Discovery Center for fun and educational programs that the whole family can enjoy! Tailored for nature-appreciating kids of all ages, these engaging programs are designed to inspire the next generation while providing a memorable experience for everyone!

## Nature Sprouts (ages 1-4)

Connecting families to nature, this family-oriented program consists of interactive, sensory activities centralized around a nature theme.

10 - 10:30 a.m.  
\$4/\$3 member



### Exploring Bugs

Saturday, September 6  
Registration deadline: September 4

### Autumn Adventures

Saturday, October 4  
Registration deadline: October 2

## BATFEST 2025

Saturday, October 18

3 - 5 p.m.

\*Be a bat biologist activity  
\*Explore a bat cave  
\*Play a bat survival game  
\*Meet live bats up close  
\*And much more!

## StoryWalk (ages 4-8)

Join a Discovery Center Naturalist as we take a walk down the Discovery Nature Trail while reading a nature inspired book. This program combines literacy and outdoor activity and includes a fun craft. The first 8 families that register will receive a free copy of the book.

Times vary.

Free program and books sponsored by the Shepherd-Howells Fund

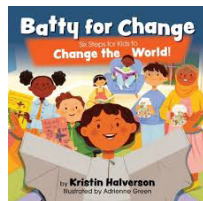


### Little Pine Cone

Saturday, September 6  
11 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Registration deadline:  
September 5

### Batty for Change

Saturday, October 18  
2 - 3 p.m.  
Registration deadline:  
October 17



### Hush Hush, Forest

Saturday, November 8  
11 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Registration deadline:  
November 7



# Traveling Naturalist Program

Did you know that our Naturalists can come to you via our Traveling Naturalist program? Each year we visit community centers, libraries, and even private homes to teach a wide variety of nature-based programs. Ranging from turtle programs utilizing our live ambassador animals to programs on foraging, wolves, and salamanders, we have a program for everyone! Our program pricing is based on an hourly rate and mileage to the program and may include material fees. For more information on our Traveling Naturalist Program contact: [Programs@discoverycenter.net](mailto:Programs@discoverycenter.net)



## Residential Program



Residential Programs help people of all ages and abilities foster a deep connection to and appreciation of the natural world through engaging and interactive programming during overnight experiences. Our programs shape young adults and youth to become responsible land stewards and passionate conservationists while encouraging teamwork and life skill development. For more information on our Residential Programs contact: [Residential@discoverycenter.net](mailto:Residential@discoverycenter.net)

## Woods & Water Program

Our team of conservation specialists and emerging professionals are dedicated to protecting healthy lakes and preserving the Northwoods. Through hands-on work in conservation practices like invasive species prevention, shoreline restoration, and community outreach, we promote best stewardship practices and an ethic of care for our natural resources. For more information on our Woods & Water Program contact: [Woodsandwater@discoverycenter.net](mailto:Woodsandwater@discoverycenter.net)





# Facility & Wedding Rentals

Discover a tranquil retreat in Manitowish Waters, Vilas County, where nature creates the perfect backdrop for your gathering. Our lakeside location offers ample space and amenities for overnight stays.

Enjoy recreational activities like kayaking, hiking, or simply relaxing in the beautiful surroundings. Our historic main lodge, with its charming architecture, features comfortable gathering spaces and modern classrooms for workshops. For overnight lodging, our cozy bunkhouses foster connection among guests.

For a unique experience, consider hosting your wedding here, with scenic views and an outdoor ceremony option in our amphitheater. Let us help you create an unforgettable event in this serene lakeside paradise.



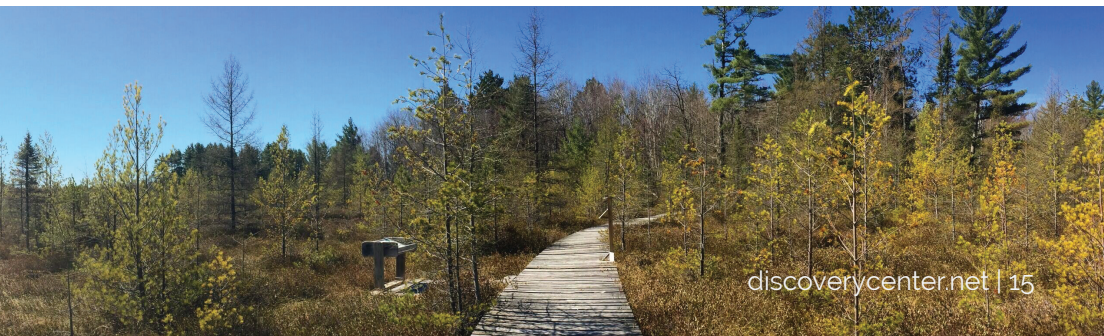
## Contact Us

For information on reserving our facility spaces, registering for a program, or details about the North Lakeland Discovery Center contact us at:  
Contact@discoverycenter.net or (715) 543-2085

## Hours of Operation

Nature Center Hours:  
Tuesday - Saturday: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Closed Sunday & Monday

Grounds & trails are open year-round, daily from dawn until dusk.



# TRAIL MAP



## NORTH LAKE LAND DISCOVERY CENTER

Hiking • Biking • XC Skiing • Snowshoeing



### TRAIL DISTANCES






- Interpretive Trail - 0.8 miles
- Little Bit Longer Loop - 1.2 miles
- Bog Boardwalk - 1.8 miles
- Snowshoe Loop - 2.2 miles
- Statehouse Lake Loop - 2.5 miles
- Lookout - 2.6 miles
- Northern Cruise - 2.8 miles
- Big River - 3.2 miles

Outer perimeter is 4.32 miles



## Discovery Center Trails

The Discovery Center offers 12 miles of trails for you to explore this season. Whether you choose to hike or bike, be aware that the trails are made up of dirt and grass. While use of the trails is free, donations are welcome to help maintain their quality. While enjoying the trails, please keep the following guidelines in mind:

-  Dogs must be on a leash at all times, please pick up after your pet
-  Please stay on the designated trails
-  Each intersection is indicated on a map at that location
-  Please be respectful of others using the trail system
-  Our trails are on state land and hunting is allowed, use caution during these times