



Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest

VISITOR'S GUIDE

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2015

Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest

4125 Forest Headquarters Road • Boulder Junction, WI 54512 • www.dnr.wi.gov

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Welcome!

NHAL Forest provides multiple benefits

Wisconsinites care deeply about the current and future use of public forests in Wisconsin. The Northern Highland American Legion (NHAL) State Forest is no exception.

As the largest state-owned property, the NHAL is a vast and cherished part of Wisconsin's ecological, economic and social past, present and future. The NHAL State Forest covers 232,000 acres located in northern Wisconsin in Vilas, Oneida and Iron counties.

In 1925, the Wisconsin Legislature created the public forest to preserve the headwaters of the Wisconsin, Manitowish and Flambeau rivers – once a region of dense towering white pines denuded by logging near the turn of the last century. Retreating glaciers 10,000 years ago carved the land's structure, forming the forest's unique hills, lakes, boulders and wetlands.

The lakes and rivers are one of the primary features that draw more than two million visitors to the forest each year. Fishing, boating, swimming, canoeing and kayaking are all popular summer activities. Trails and woods roads crisscross the forest, providing oppor-



Cover photographs by Dean Baker

tunities for hiking, biking and snowmobiling.

Graced by some of the most consistent snowfalls in the state, the forest provides more than 400 miles of snowmobile trails that con-

nect with hundreds of more miles of riding opportunities. There are approximately 40 miles of groomed cross country ski trails and

See WELCOME... page 39

Fun Forest Facts

BY KIMBERLY KRAWCZYK
CRYSTAL LAKE RANGER STATION MANAGER

Many visitors know that the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest is a great place to recreate during all four seasons. As Wisconsin's largest state property, it contains a diversity of northern timber types interspersed with marshes, and more than 900 lakes. Throughout this year's newspaper, you will find information on some cool features, fun factoids, points of interest and special locations that you might not know can be found on the forest.

FUN FACT #1

Early History. The greatest event to shape the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest landscape occurred some 10,000 years ago when the last glacier retreated. The Ontonogon Ice Lobe transported huge deposits of boulders, rocks, gravel and sand, called "outwash." Ice blocks broke off the retreating glacier, and became stuck in the layers of outwash. As the ice blocks melted, they left deep depressions or "pits" that filled with water to become lakes. The glacier left one of the largest concentrations of these "kettle lakes" in the world; many of them are on the NHAL.

The earliest evidence of human habitation on the NHAL area dates back thousands of years. Early use of the area by native peoples is documented through research on over 60 sites on the NHAL alone. The sites include both hunting and residential camps, which range in age from at least the Late Archaic period (10,000-3,000 years ago) to the Late Woodland period (3,000-1,000 years ago). Characteristic features of Woodland culture include the construction of earthen mounds, which appear to have served both mortuary and ceremonial purposes, along with the introduction of horticulture.

The Menominee, Sioux, and Ojibwe people occupied the NHAL area from the earliest of times to Euro-American settlement. Through the 1825 Prairie du Chien Treaty, these tribal nations resolved their own respective territorial claims and recognized the NHAL area as within Ojibwe territory. The NHAL remains extremely important to the region's Ojibwe Tribes because it is located on their ancestral homelands where the Tribes may exercise their rights to hunt, fish

and gather (including wild plants and miscellaneous forest products). These rights — guaranteed in 1837 and 1842 land cession treaties with the United States—help provide for the subsistence, cultural, medicinal and spiritual needs of tribal communities. The NHAL is the largest block of public land in what has become known as the "ceded territory" where these rights are exercised.

In the mid-1800s, northern Wisconsin was heavily dominated by mixed hardwood forests, with several large pineries. White pine was the major species logged in the northern Lake States. In fact, this species was so extensive that before its supply began to dwindle around the turn of the century, the term lumbering was used exclusively to refer to the white pine industry. About the time Wisconsin became a state (1848) large scale lumbering had begun. The white pine harvest reached a peak between 1890 and 1910 when virtually all the merchantable pine had been cut or destroyed by fire.

The Northern Wisconsin State Park, as the 1908 acreage was originally called, took on a pioneering role in starting many programs that are important in forestry today. Wildfires were controlled, and an aggressive reforestation program began with the first state-owned tree nursery established at the Trout Lake Headquarters in 1911. The reforestation program on the Northern Highland State Forest began that same year with the planting of 154 acres. Tree seedling production increased to 11 million trees per year during the era of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), between 1933 and 1942. The program reached its peak in 1934 with the planting of 4,276 acres.



Frank Lake on the State Forest during autumn not only offers great colors — it is a secluded recreation opportunity because of its carry-in only access.

Dean Baker photograph



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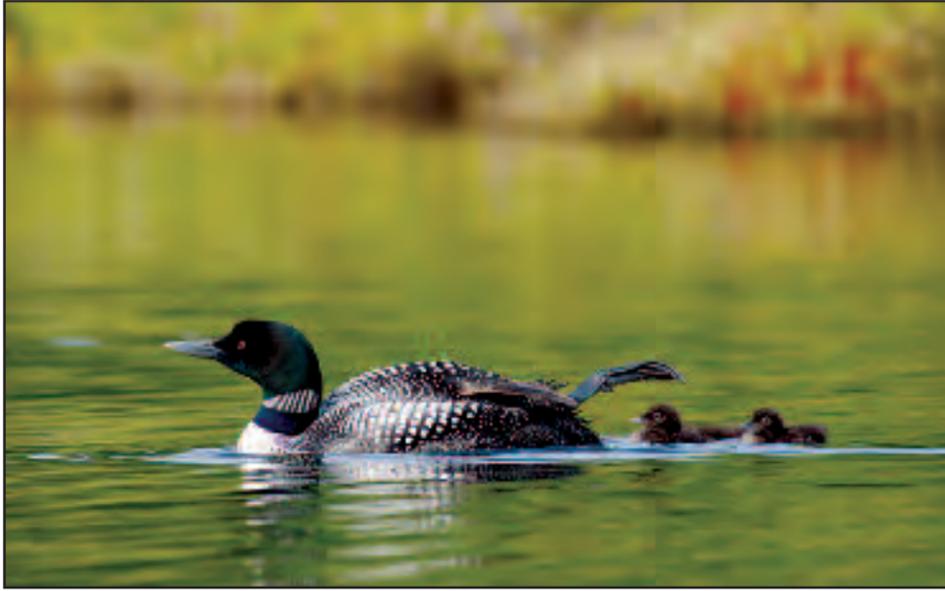
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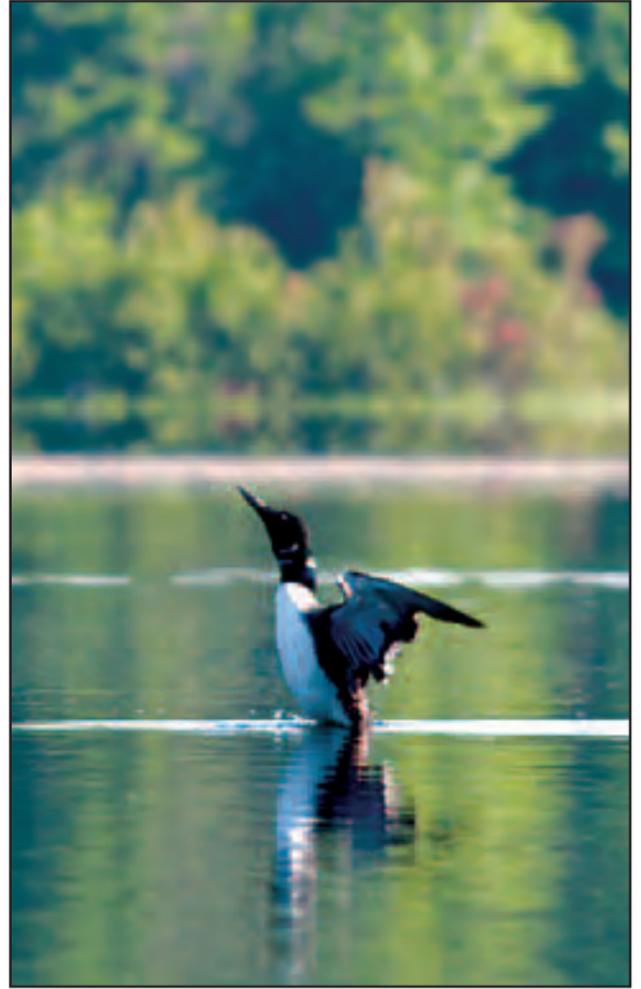
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(Left) This loon extends its legs to keep its brood under control as they patrol Mickle Lake for food. Loons generally catch and bring small fish to the chicks for them to eat.

(Right) A loon rises out of the water to stretch its wings. A loon chick instinctively mimics its parents. Many waters on The Northern Highland American Legion boast returning loons to raise families.

Dean Baker photographs



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| July 4 | 4th of July Parade and Fireworks |
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| July 17-19 | Rhinelanders School of the Arts |
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| August 15 | BBBSNW Color Dash |
| August 22 | WILD Hodag Mini Triathlon |
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| September 5 | Potatofest |
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Welcome to the Forest

Once again we are able to produce this newspaper in cooperation with The Lakeland Times and we've worked hard to develop new content that is responsive to your comments. Keep them coming! This is a fun project. And be sure to thank our advertisers when you patronize their businesses. They make it all possible.

My most exciting news this year is personal - we bought a travel trailer! Late last August we bought a Heritage Glen 282RK at Indian Shores RV Sales, near Clear Lake. Our friends Heather and Dennis guided my wife Mary and me through the shopping process and after looking at what must have been hundreds of campers this one felt right and was available locally. We used it through the fall, until late October and had a blast. Our old dog Barney really loved it even though I had to carry him up the steps. We look forward to spending many nights camped on the NHAL from spring through fall.

I can remember camping at Clear Lake quite a bit as a youngster. We lived in Waupaca and the trip up north was mostly two lane highways. Hwy. 51 went through downtown Merrill and Tomahawk. One particular trip was especially memorable. (It must have been 1970 or 1971 and it seems like the new section was under construction.) After much begging, my dad tied my red Huffy bike with a banana seat on top of our



Tradewinds tent camper. I rode that bike all over the campground. Good times! Freedom!

Now, 45 years later, we've got a brand new paved bike trail connecting from Indian Mounds to Clear Lake to Carroll Lake. And the paved trail connecting Manitowish Waters to Boulder Junction is completed too. There's more to come and soon you'll be able to bike to Mercer and possibly Presque Isle. There are plans to connect more of our campgrounds, like Upper Gresham and Jag Group. We hear a little grumbling about the paved trails but overall they have been incredibly popular.

Since last year's paper we've hired some new rangers. Stan, Rob, and Neal have been wonderful additions to our staff and we're glad to have them here. Our rangers work year-round now, on the forest and across the region on forestry related law enforcement cases. I felt it was important that these positions be full-time professionals that would

develop relationships within our campgrounds and communities. I encourage you to get to know them when you have the chance.

At the same time that we have these rangers beginning their careers here at NHAL we have a few retirements this year as well. The official announcements haven't been made yet, as I write this article, but three of our staff are wrapping up distinguished careers. Combined, they have nearly a century of experience and we will miss their service

and comradery deeply.

So there's the news from my corner of the forest. I'm sure glad you are here and hope that your stay is all that you want it to be. Please let me know your ideas to make it better. Maybe we'll get a chance to share a campfire this summer. Stop on by if you see me! And watch for me and Mary on those bike trails. The red Huffy is gone and I'm on a green Trek now.

Steve Petersen
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Dean Baker photograph

Allequash Creek just as it empties out into Trout Lake.

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Recreation Update

If you have visited us within the past few years you will have no doubt seen the many efforts that the NHAL has taken to provide you with an enjoyable and sustainable recreation experience in one of the most beautiful places in the state. Last year was a big year for the NHAL Recreation program with the construction of approximately 14 miles of new paved bicycle trails and a new boat landing. This year will also see some exciting developments with new toilet buildings coming to several of our campgrounds and an extension to the Crystal Lake Ranger Station.

Two new sections of paved bike trails were constructed on the property in 2014. Visitors to Clear Lake, Indian Mounds, and Carrol Lake campground will find 4.5 miles of new, paved bicycle trail that, when combined with routes along secondary roads will connect the three campgrounds. Also, a new section of bicycle trail was constructed between Boulder Junction and

Melissa Baker,
Recreation
Program
Supervisor



Manitowish Waters. This section of trail was made possible by private donations and is a collaboration between the NHAL state forest, the town of Manitowish Waters and the Manitowish Waters Bicycle Trail Group.

A new boat landing was also constructed on Sparkling Lake last year. The new landing was built within the wayside along Hwy. 51 and replaces the old boat landing that was immediately adjacent to the road. This new landing will provide a safer loca-

tion from which to launch your boat on Sparkling Lake and will also provide additional parking for users of the lake.

This year, you will see the installation of many new toilet buildings in our outlying campgrounds. As those of you who camp with us know, many of our current toilet buildings are very old. We are in the middle of a process to replace all of our 1960s era pit toilet buildings with new facilities that are clean, bright and better ventilated. Please be patient while we complete the installation of these buildings. Any temporary inconvenience created by their installation will be more than made up for by the much improved facilities.

From construction projects and facility improvements, to visitor services and daily operations, it takes a great deal of work to provide each of you with satisfying recreational experiences on the forest. Fortunately, the NHAL is blessed with a very hard-working and dedicated recreation team.

I hope you will take the opportunity to talk to a member of our visitor services staff during your visit. Our visitor services team is led by two full-time staff: Kim Krawczyk (Crystal Lake Ranger Station) and Rosalie Richter (Clear Lake Ranger Station). We are also very fortunate to have a great group of seasonal visitor services associates, campground hosts and resident managers. These folks are a very friendly bunch and a great source of information on things to do in and around the forest.

Another group I would like to acknowl-

edge is the operations team. The operations team is led by four full-time employees: Dick Logan (Facilities and Grounds Coordinator), Dan Jacoby (Boat Landings and Water Recreation Coordinator) and Tony Martinez (Trails Coordinator), and our newest team member, Joe Fieweger (Campground Coordinator). They are joined by a dedicated group of seasonal maintenance crew members. If you have enjoyed a campsite, trail, boat ramp, picnic area or any of our visitor facilities while on the forest it is because of the hard work of this team.

As you enjoy your time on the forest, I encourage you to think about all of the hard work and dedication that goes into providing all aspects of your experience. When you see a member of the operations or visitor services teams, I hope you will take the chance to say hello. I think you will find them to be helpful, friendly, and passionate about the work they do to provide you with the best possible recreation experience.

I am very much looking forward to another great year on the forest. I welcome the chance to talk with you about what you find special about your state forest and to answer any questions you might have.

Melissa Baker
Operations and Visitor Services Supervisor
Trout Lake Forestry Headquarters
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The Soldiers of Poverty tells the true story of Mike Kerkes who was rescued from the grips of the Great Depression when he joined Company 692 of the Civilian Conservation Corps. After gaining experience hewing beams for the main lodge at Giant City Park in Makanda, IL, he advanced as a lead carpenter building prairie cabins and shelters. In 1935, this experienced company was transferred to Copper Falls State Park in Mellen, WI where Mike was promoted to carpentry field supervisor of the main lodge. Reads like a novel filled with humor, romance, adventure and danger — a tribute to the men of the CCC. \$21.95



My Life to My Children by Jack Vilas is an edited memoir originally written in 1929 but never published until now. July 1, 2013 is the 100th anniversary of the first successful flight over Lake Michigan (St. Joe's, MI to Grant Park, IL) where Jack earned himself a place in aviation history. Enjoy page-turning descriptions of his Lake Michigan flight in a 1913 Curtiss flying yacht and his experiences as the first "flying fire warden" over Trout Lake in Boulder Junction. Loaded with original pictures — a must read for lovers of pioneer aviation and northern Wisconsin history. \$21.95



Rustic Reflections of Copper Falls State Park contains the petitions to the Wisconsin Office of Historic Preservation that placed the park site on the National Register of Historic Places. Copper Falls contains one of the largest collections of rustic architecture from the CCC and WPA era and also qualified for National Register status in the areas of conservation and recreation. \$9.95



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Explore the Raven Trail

Located near the Clear Lake campground, the Raven Trail is a multi-use trail system offering hiking and biking in spring, summer and fall, and skiing and snowshoeing in winter. A State Trail Pass is required for bikers and skiers over the age of 16. The trail tread is grass or soil surface with moderately hilly terrain that follows the natural topography through a picturesque area by Hemlock, Inkpot and Clear lakes.

The trail system provides a variety of distances and levels of difficulty. The Yellow loop is a 1.5 mile long nature trail with views of Hemlock Lake. The Green and Blue Loops are both 3.5 miles long and rated intermediate difficulty. The longest section is the Red Loop and is an expert rated 5 miles track. In the winter, approximately 10 miles of groomed ski trail are available with an open style warming shelter with a fire pit along the trail. Pets are prohibited on the nature trail during all seasons and the other loops when groomed for skiing.

Many changes have occurred to the Raven Trail system over the past several years. Signage has been updated and bathrooms have been installed. Over the



Tony Martinez,
Trails
Coordinator

years, I have noticed an increase in the numbers of trail patrons involved in mountain biking and snowshoeing. I have been working with the Lakeland Area Mountain Bike Organization (L.A.M.B.O.) as well as other volunteers to enhance the existing trails and develop new trails. We have been working to provide sustainable and challenging features to the trail to support these growing trends. A mountain bike skills area has been developed across from the Raven trailhead. Approximately one mile of trail has been constructed with structures built that range from beginner to expert difficulty, helping beginners safely learn fundamental mountain biking skills and challenging experienced riders as well.



Dean Baker photograph

There are many beautiful views of Hemlock Lake from the Raven Trail.

These structures include berms, log rides, teeter-totters, drops, bridges and other features.

A single track mountain bike loop has been being constructed over the last several years and will be finished and signed this year. This loop is a blend of tight, twisty technical areas with smooth flowing areas. In the winter, this loop becomes a snowshoe trail leaving from and returning to the Raven Trailhead.

Other loops of the Raven Snowshoe Trails were developed two years ago when a portion of the mountain bike loop was completed. The trail consists of three loops: a 0.6 mile, a 1.1 and a 2.1

mile loop. The trail head for these trails is located in the Clear Lake picnic area off of Hwy. J.

You may have noticed the amount of paved trails in the northwoods has been increasing. Last fall the forest constructed a paved trail to link up three of our campgrounds: Indian Mounds, Clear Lake, and Carrol Lake. This trail uses portions of the Raven Trail.

I hope your visit to the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest keeps you coming back again and again. Comment boxes are located at all trailheads. Feel free to leave a comment and let us know about your experience.

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Rangers Working for You

Welcome back to the state forest, or if you are a first time visitor I hope you enjoy all the recreational opportunities the area has to offer and will come back and see us soon. As you explore the forest I hope you will take time to visit with one of our rangers. They will be happy to stop and chat with you. Their knowledge can help you with a tip about the best hiking trails or where the fish are biting, as well as any questions you may have about forest rules.

For several years in a row our largest number of complaints comes from two main areas: visitor noise in the campgrounds and pets. Our forest rules state that visitors cannot engage in "boisterous or unreasonably loud" conduct. While there are signs in the campgrounds stating that quiet hours are from 11 p.m. - 6 a.m., there are no laws or rules that specify those times

and they are guidelines for visitors. The rangers enforce noise rules and respond to noise complaints at all times of the day, and as we get into the evening hours and people start settling into their campsites for the evening, rangers will enforce the noise rules more closely. Visitors come to the forest for many reasons, quiet and solitude being one of them. Please be aware of your camping party's noise level and be considerate of others in the campgrounds. When campers start settling into bed for the evening your campsite's noise level should not be heard on a neighboring site.

Our pet regulations specify that pets are not allowed in any building, picnic area, designated swimming beach area, or nature trail. They must be on a leash and under control at all times, and cannot be left unattended (our

most common pet complaint). The following are some specific areas on the forest that are popular with visitors where pets are and are not allowed: **Crystal Lake** - the entire lake shore is a designated beach and pets are not allowed (even by the campground), nor are they allowed in the picnic area. **Muskie Lake Pet Area** - The area by the nature center, across the road from Crystal Lake beach picnic area, is a designated pet area. Pets are welcome and it's very close to the Crystal Lake beach. **Firefly Lake** - Pets are allowed along the lake **except** in the beach/picnic area on the middle campground loop. **Clear Lake Campground** - Pets are not allowed in the area from the boat landing to the beach/picnic area, and continuing around to the end of the "ski beach."

In another area of this newspaper there is information about the firewood rules and the growing danger of forest pests that ride along on firewood brought to the forest. There is locally sourced firewood for sale in many of the campgrounds, but did you know that if you are a registered camper you can collect firewood for your campsite from just about anywhere on the forest for free? In the campgrounds you can use any dead-and-down wood you find and outside of the campgrounds you can collect any dead wood as long as you don't take it from a loggers pile on a timber sale.

I hope you will help us reduce the complaints on noise and pets, and have a safe and enjoyable visit to your state forest. Please contact me anytime with questions or concerns.

*Brett Bockhop, Ranger Supervisor
Clear Lake Ranger Station
8282 Woodruff Rd.
Woodruff, WI 54568
Phone 715-356-4752
Brett.Bockhop@wisconsin.gov*

Emergency information

Hospital - Howard Young Medical Center, Woodruff, 715-356-8000

Clinic - Marshfield Clinic, Minocqua, 715-358-1000

Ambulance - dial 911

Fire - dial 911

Disturbances - In case of a civil disturbance, notify the nearest Ranger Station, DNR office, or if necessary phone the Sheriff's Department (911). Be sure to write down auto license numbers, make and model of cars, campsite numbers, etc.

Clear Lake Ranger Station: 715-356-3668

Crystal Lake Ranger Station: 715-542-3923

Severe weather - In case of severe weather, visitors should check for updates at the Ranger Stations or tune radios to the following stations: 92.5 WJQ (Tomahawk), 94.5 WRJO (Eagle River), 95.9 WMQA (Minocqua), 98.3 WCQM (Park Falls) or 99.7 WIMI (Ironwood/Hurley).

Telephone - There is a public pay phone located in many of the small towns in the area. Emergency telephones are available at the ranger stations during open hours. Resident managers and campground hosts have cellphones for emergencies.

Office Hours - The Clear Lake and Crystal Lake ranger stations are open daily 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. from Memorial Day to Labor Day. From mid-May to Memorial Day and again from Labor Day to the end of September the ranger stations are open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The rest of the year, the ranger stations are open as staffing allows, and usually at least one station is open each day except holidays. For Clear Lake call 715-356-3668, or for Crystal Lake call 715-542-3923. The forest superintendent is located at the Woodruff Service Center at 715-356-5211, ext. 225. Other forest operations are handled out of the Trout Lake Forest Headquarters at 715-385-2727.



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FUN FACT #2

By **KIMBERLY KRAWCZYK**
CRYSTAL LAKE RANGER
STATION MANAGER

Cathedral Point. Cathedral Point is a beautiful timbered point on the very short narrow section between the North and South basins of Trout Lake. Many of the pines on the east shore of the lake are 120-130 feet tall. It's a great spot for a picnic or a shore lunch. There's a rise in elevation at the point of a 100 feet or so, which allows for fantastic views of the lake between the huge old white pines. Cathedral Point is Located south of Boulder Junction just off Highway M. Look for Cathedral Point Lane next to the Trout Lake Forestry Headquarters building. You can park near here and take a beautiful walk or drive to the end of the lane where there is another parking lot.

- Always keep a clean camp.
- Use a designated camping area.
- Don't leave food out when not in use. Store it in bear-resistant storage unit, hard-shelled vehicle or car trunk.
- Set up tents with space between them.
- Keep pets on a leash.
- Keep your sleeping area, tent and sleeping bag free of food and odors.
- Don't sleep in clothes you were wearing while you cooked food.
- Keep a flashlight readily available.
- Don't leave dirty utensils around the campsite.
- Before going to bed, place garbage in dumpsters provided by the campground.

Stay far away from bear traps

Although it's tempting to check out the bear traps we have set out to catch our nuisance bears, our attempts to capture will be much more successful if everyone steers clear of the traps. Please don't add to Law Enforcement Ranger duties by forcing us to monitor traps for people as well as bears.

Frightening black bears

Black bears are occasionally encountered

Camping in bear country

on trails or at campsites. In most cases bears can be frightened away, but be sure they have an obvious and large escape route. Use sticks, rocks, frying pans, or whatever is available to frighten the animal away. They can usually be frightened away by shouting, clapping hands, or throwing objects. Such actions can be augmented by the noise of pots banging.

It is important to attempt to determine the motivation of the offending bears. Habituated, food-conditioned bears can be very dangerous. Aggressive behavior toward a black bear should not be carried so far as to threaten the bear and elicit an attack.



Michele Woodford photograph

Black bear encounters

Black bears should always be considered unpredictable and potentially dangerous. A black bear will usually detect your presence and flee the area before you notice unless the bear has been conditioned to people and their foods.

If a black bear is visible, but not close, alter your route so that you will move away from its area.

If a black bear approaches, do not run. Remain calm, continue facing the bear and

slowly back away. If the bear continues to approach, try to group together and pick up small children. Try to scare the bear away by shouting and acting aggressively.

If a black bear attacks, it is suggested to fight back using everything in your power, fists, sticks, rocks, and E.P.A. registered bear pepper spray. To this date, there is no recorded report of a black bear attacking a human on the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest.

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THE McCARTNEY YEARS: April 8, Wednesday, 7 p.m. Playing music from the Beatles to Wings, this group will make you think you're hearing the originals. Adults \$20, Students \$10

SPRING BAND CONCERT: April 26, Sunday, 1 p.m. The Lakeland Community Concert Band performs their spring concert as they recreate the 1920's style concert of John Philip Sousa's band when he came to town. Suggested minimum donation \$5.

THE HOT CLUB OF COWTOWN: April 29, Wednesday, 7 p.m. Country with a swing. Throw in a little gypsy jazz. This group will keep your toes a tappin'! Adults \$20, Students \$10

FEELIN' GROOVY with JIM WITTER: May 7, Thursday, 7 p.m. Back by your request with a different show. This one focuses on all of the music of Simon & Garfunkel from the 60's. Not to be missed. Adults \$20, Students \$10

SPRING CHORUS CONCERT: May 10, Sunday, 2 p.m. The Campanile Chorus and small ensembles present their portion of the spring concert. Suggested minimum donation \$5.

MIPSO: June 9, Tuesday, 7 p.m. Renegade traditionalists push the Appalachian folk tradition into new territory. Ringing four-part harmonies. Adults \$20, Students \$10

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Getting to know you

By Melissa Baker
Recreation Supervisor

If you visited the NHAL in 2012, you may have encountered a group of students from the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point conducting visitor research. The purpose of their project was to help us understand our visitors' expectations and use. Here are a few highlights of the results of that project.

Most visitors to the NHAL are repeat visitors with long use histories. In fact, of the people who were contacted for the survey, 90 percent were repeat visitors. Many of our visitors reported that they had first come to the forest with their parents and now come with their children and grandchildren.



With many visitors having traditions of coming to the forest with their families, it is not surprising that the majority of visitors reported that the NHAL was important to them for being with family and creating memories.

The survey results also told us a bit about visitors' preferences regarding their recreational experience on trails, campground, and lakes. The majority of survey respondents engaged in multiple activities while visiting the forest including camping, fishing, swimming, hiking, and bicycle riding.

Visitors to our modern campgrounds along the bike trail highly value nature and social experiences (particularly with family and friends) with opportunities for physical fitness. Visitors to our outlying campgrounds and to lakes that do not allow for motorized access highly valued nature and escape. Those visiting no-motor lakes also valued physical fitness.

In the winter, our primary respondents were visitors to our cross country ski trails. These visitors were also long-time users of the forest who highly valued nature and physical fitness. They tended to be local day users who came in smaller groups (usually two people).

We thank all of our visitors who participated in this study. The information above, along with all of the other information in the final report, will be useful to us as we get closer to revising our property master plan in 2020. In future years, you may see more research efforts to understand the needs of our recreation visitors. If you do happen across someone collecting visitor information for the forest, I would encourage you to take the time to participate. This is your forest and our ability to manage is strongly enhanced when we can understand your recreational needs.

FUN FACT #3

By Kimberley Krawczyk
Crystal Lake Ranger Station Manager

Freshwater Jellyfish. The freshwater jellyfish found in Wisconsin are one of several species of Craspedacusta native to China. Two species (C. sowerbii and C. sinensis) live in the Yangtze River - the world's third longest river and one so vast it makes the Wisconsin River seem like a trout stream. Freshwater jellyfish were first reported in North America as early as 1884. Sightings in Wisconsin date back to 1969. Much more remains to be learned about these fascinating creatures. Although they probably evolved from estuarine species, themselves descendants of ocean jellyfish, little is known about the evolution of freshwater jellyfish. That's because jellyfish leave no fossil records. Sightings of freshwater jellyfish have been reported in 97 Lakes and Rivers in Wisconsin including Big Carr Lake, Big Kitten Lake and Clear Lake which are located on the NHAL. Look for jellyfish during dry and hot summers, typically from early August to mid-September. Sunny days are especially good for spotting jellyfish. Where do you look for Jellyfish? Just below the surface of the water where they will be gently floating or swimming. They often surface in large numbers called "blooms."

Jellyfish like water between 65-75 degrees F. If the water surface of a lake becomes warmer than 75, as many of our lakes do during afternoons, they congregate lower near the bottom of the lake. Keep in mind, sightings are very rare.

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Be a part of the NHAL family: Become a campground host

Have you ever reached the end of a two-week camping trip to the NHAL and wished you could stay just a little bit longer? While our camping regulations require that we have a two-week stay limit within a campground, there is a way that you can stay on a single site on the forest for five weeks.

Become a campground host!

Our campground hosts are an integral part of management here on the forest. They provide visitor services by answering questions and giving out information. They also help with our firewood sales and light maintenance of the campgrounds. The required time commitment for campground hosts is 15 hours of work per week for five weeks. In return, campground hosts are provided a campsite free of charge for the length of their term.

Most of our campground hosts are so happy with their positions that they return year after year. In fact, some of our hosts have been coming here as either a visitor or a host for most of their lives. We do, however, usually have 2-4 openings for hosts each year. In fact, at the time this newspaper went to print we still had late summer openings in Cunard and South Trout Campgrounds.

If you would like more information on becoming a campground host, I encourage you to talk with the host at your campground. If it sounds like the opportunity for you, please contact Joe Fieweger at 715-385-3355 extension 113, or joseph.fieweger@wisconsin.gov.

FUN FACT #4

By KIMBERLY KRAWCZYK

CRYSTAL LAKE RANGER STATION MANAGER

State Natural Areas (SNA). Thirty-four of the state's 673 SNAs are located on the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest. State natural areas (SNAs) protect outstanding examples of Wisconsin's native landscape of natural communities, significant geological formations and archeological sites. Wisconsin's natural areas are valuable for research and educational use, the preservation of genetic and biological diversity and for providing benchmarks for determining the impact of use on managed lands. They also provide some of the last refuges for rare plants and animals. The following SNAs located on the NHAL: #508 - Allequash Lake and Pines, #127 - Aurora Lake, #512 - Big Swamp, #34 - Bittersweet Lakes, #49 - Black Tern Bog, #506 - Camp Lake and Pines, #501 - Catherine Lake Hemlock-Hardwoods, #189 - Day Lake, #507 - Devine Lake and Mishonogon Creek, #237 - Dunn Lake, #502 - DuPage Lake Peatlands, #187 - Frog Lake and Pines, #107 - Johnson Lake Barrens and Springs, #509 - Lake Alva Birch-Hemlock, #500 - Lake Laura Hardwoods, #108 - Lost Canoe, #264 - Mary Lake, #672 - Nell Lake, #186 - Nixon Lake, #503 - Papoose Creek Pines, #26 - Plum Lake Hemlock Forest, #513 - Rainbow Wetlands, #504 - Rice Creek, #514 - Shallow Lake, #185 - Stone Lake Pines, #510 - Tomahawk Lake Hemlocks, #22 - Toy Lake Swamp, #21 - Trout Lake Conifer Swamp, #505 - Trout River, #511 - Two Lakes Pine-Oak Forest, #673 - Van Vliet Hemlocks, #188 - Wind Pudding Lake, #588 - Lower Tomahawk River Pines, #239 - Tomahawk River Pines. You can find detailed information on each of these SNAs by looking them up by number, county, or name on the DNR website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/naturalareas/>



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Safety first on the NHAL

The safety of forest visitors is a priority so please be careful at all times and please impress safety precautions on your children. Following are some precautions to keep in mind.

Swimming — Swim safely. Swim at a designated beach where available. None of the forest beaches have lifeguards.

Don't swim alone, at night, or in unfamiliar places. Use caution when wading in unknown waters, as water depth may change abruptly. Watch small children closely near the water.

Boating/Canoeing — Every boat and canoe must carry a Coast Guard approved lifesaving device for each person aboard, and passengers should wear lifejackets at all times. Don't overload your craft. When boating, be aware of your wake and stay well away from swimmers. Please do not power load boats. If you coast on and trim up – this will help keep the lake bottom in place.

Hiking — Hike safely. Be aware that trails vary in difficulty. Not all trails are surfaced. There may be steep climbs or descents or stairways. Watch small children closely. Trail surfaces can become slippery when wet or covered by leaves or pine needles, or where there is loose gravel.

Biking — For your protection, wear shoes, pant-leg clips and helmet when bicycling. Wear reflective clothing for bicycling at night. Keep your bike under full control at all times. Pull off the road or trail to view wildlife, flowers or scenic views. Be cautious in areas with loose gravel or sand, wet leaves, or other loose material. Always be alert to traffic. Park and forest roads follow the terrain and

often have steep grades, corners and intersections. Burrowing animals may leave bumps and holes in the trail. Bikes are not allowed on developed nature or hiking trails.

Skiing — Be aware that groomed trails cannot always be groomed on a daily basis. The quality of groomed trails can vary depending on heavy use, weather and terrain. Skiers should not ski beyond their abilities or allow speed to build up beyond the skier's ability to control their descent.

Plants — Never eat berries or plant parts unless you are certain of their identity.

Severe weather — The time to pre-

pare for severe weather is before the storm hits. Please develop a plan with your family on what you will do if threatening weather approaches.

Questions to consider

- What county and city are you visiting?
- Where will you go if threatening weather is approaching?
- How will you find out if a storm is moving toward your area?
- How will you receive warnings and forecasts before the storm strikes? A brochure on Severe Weather Information from the National Weather Service is available at the ranger stations.

FUN FACT #5

By **KIMBERLY KRAWCZYK**
CRYSTAL LAKE RANGER
STATION MANAGER

Scotch Pines. Ever wonder about those pines that look like they have flakey orange bark peeling off? Those are Scotch Pines. Scotch, also called Scots Pine, (*Pinus sylvestris*) is one of the most widely distributed conifers in the world. Its native range spans from western Scotland to eastern Siberia and from northern Scandinavia to southern Spain. They are not native to Wisconsin but were introduced when the first state-owned tree nursery established at Trout Lake began an aggressive program to reforest the cutover that was northern Wisconsin.

Why Scotch Pine? The seed from the native and preferred red pine was only available by harvesting it locally. Originally, cones were collected and spread out on sheets to dry. The seeds were extracted by shaking the sheets. This primitive method resulted in minimal amounts of red pine seed and ran up the cost of the seed considerably. Scotch pine seed was available from Europe at a cheap price. It was also chosen because of the tree's ability to thrive and grow in almost any type of soil. The Scotch pine seedlings were mixed with red pine in plantation establishment to stretch the limited quantities of red pine available. Since there was very little red pine available, some pure stands of Scotch were planted. It was originally intended that the Scotch pine would be removed in early thinnings. Some large Scotch pines can still be found throughout the forest, but as it is not a desirable pulp tree, tends to grow crookedly in our Wisconsin forests, and it is not native, their removal is an ongoing process.

Ruffed grouse



Dean Baker photograph

A ruffed grouse looks in this deciduous tree for emerging spring buds to eat. Their habitat include areas that are regenerating from burning and timber harvest.



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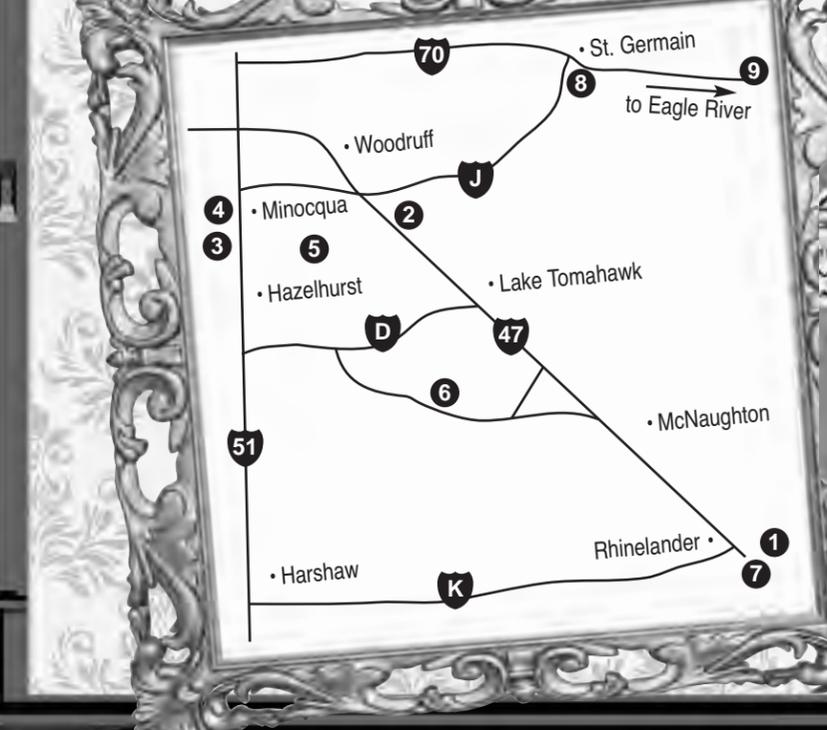
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4. Gaslight Antiques & Collectables
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NHAL State Forest rules and regulations

State forests are special areas that have been established to protect our natural heritage. We all are given the responsibility to protect these great places. Listed below are some guidelines for you to follow to enjoy your visit and to comply with common rules and regulations. These rules are for you, your friends and family's safety and enjoyment. Feel free to report any activity that is illegal or that you feel jeopardizes someone's safety. Law enforcement rangers routinely patrol the state forest. For more information please ask a Ranger or stop and ask staff at the Crystal and Clear Lake Ranger Stations. Information is also found on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources website at www.dnr.wi.gov.

pad and park all wheeled vehicles on the campsite drive.

Firewood

Movement of firewood is restricted, both from out-of-state and in-state sources. Please ask us about current firewood restrictions as we are working very hard to restrict the movement of a destructive invasive species, the Emerald Ash Borer.

Vehicle admission sticker

An admission sticker is required when a motor vehicle is operated within a designated public use fee area and it must be fully attached to the windshield by its own adhesive.

Trail passes

Are required for biking and skiing on designated trails for people 16 years and older.

Pets

Must be on a leash no longer than eight feet and under control at all times. Please clean up after your pet. Pets are not allowed in buildings, picnic areas, beaches, or on nature trails or groomed ski trails. Pets can not be left unattended; please do not leave your pet in a vehicle.

Fires

Are allowed in designated fire rings and grills for grilling food. Fires can not be left unattended and must be fully extinguished before leaving. Never burn garbage – it is illegal and releases pollutants. Campfires should be completely contained within the fire ring. Please do not move the fire rings.

Build a campfire, not a bonfire.

Fireworks

You can not possess or discharge fireworks. Rule of thumb: anything that makes a noise, throws sparks, or lifts off the ground cannot be used.

Boats

No person may operate a boat within a water area marked by buoys or other approved regulatory devices as a swimming beach; or operate a boat in a restricted use area contrary to regulatory notice marked on buoys or other approved regulatory devices.

Beaches

No person may possess or consume any food or beverage, or use any soap, detergent or shampoo on any swimming beach or in the water adjacent to any swimming beach. No person may fish in any marked swimming beach.

*Thank you,
Your State Forest
Law Enforcement Rangers*

FUN FACT #6

BY KIMBERLY KRAWCZYK
CRYSTAL LAKE RANGER
STATION MANAGER

White Deer. The town of Boulder Junction, which is surrounded by the NHAL, is home to Wisconsin's largest herd of albino deer. Sometimes referred to as white deer or ghost deer, these white-tailed deer are true albinos, even though they do not have pink eyes. They do have pure white coats, pink ears, pink hooves and pink noses. They even have white velvet on their antlers in the spring-time. During the spring, summer and fall, the bright coloration of these white deer makes them easy to spot among the forest foliage. During the winter, the coloring of albino deer blends in with the snowy surroundings, making them appear as ghosts moving across the landscape. Albino deer have been in Wisconsin as long as white-tailed deer have been in the state. Native Americans speak about white deer in their ancient lore. It is illegal for hunters to shoot an albino deer in Wisconsin. The best time to look for white deer is around sunrise and at sunset, when animals are moving to and from feeding areas. Very often, albino deer will be found among normally-colored deer.

Vehicles/drivers

Please, always be aware and observant while driving; follow speed limits, one-way roads, obey stop signs, and all other traffic signs. We have a large amount of children, pets, bicycles, and people recreating in the area.

Camping

All campers must obtain a camping permit to secure a campsite. All camping permits expire at 3 p.m. on the last day of the permit; the camping unit and all equipment must be removed by 3 p.m. Camping is allowed in designated areas only and only one family or individual group of six people is allowed to occupy each campsite. Only registered campers are allowed in the campground after 11 p.m., which is also the start of quiet hours. Please set up your camping unit on the designated camping

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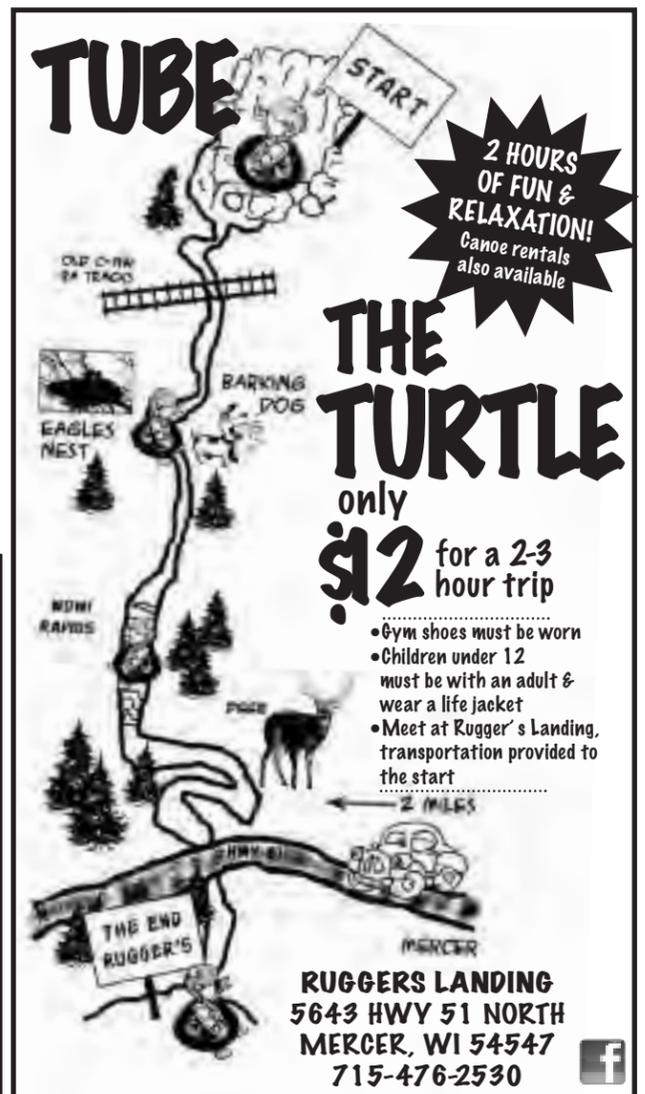
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THINK YOUR FIRE IS OUT?
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dnr.wi.gov keyword "fire"



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LAC DU FLAMBEAU CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Events

19th Annual Lakes Fest – Saturday, June 20 – Free admission, 10am-3pm at the Lac du Flambeau Tribal Campground.

4th of July Celebration – downtown Lac du Flambeau starting at Noon. Special Pow Wow at 7 pm, fireworks at dusk.

33rd Annual Bear River Pow Wow – July 10 - 12 – Old Indian Village at the Bear River Pow Wow grounds (715) 588-3333

11th Annual LdF Lion's Brewfest – July 25 – Torpy Park, Minocqua 1-5pm www.lacduflambeaubrewfest.com

Wild Rice Fest – Sept. 12 – downtown Lac du Flambeau (10 a.m. - 3 p.m.) 1K & 5K walk/run at 8 a.m. (877) 588-3346

Memorials and commemorations

Each year several requests are made to the property to place a memorial to a loved one or remember a significant event. So far the property has facilitated placement of benches within campgrounds and picnic areas. These standard benches provide a uniform look across the property. The goal is to provide a dignified and respectful memorial, a reflective place to put it, and a service to all property visitors. The benches, produced by Aqualand Manufacturing in Woodruff, are purchased and then donated to the state forest. Forest staff install the bench at a site agreed to by the donors and the superintendent.

Other memorials on the state forest property are not allowed. Staff are sensitive to those sur-



vivors' wishes to memorialize a loved one, however these memorials can be intrusive to other state forest visitors. Any unauthorized memorials found on the property will be collected and returned to the owner if known or kept for a year before disposal. This policy is

similar to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's policy on memorials. Please share your ideas with the superintendent, whose contact information is listed elsewhere in this publication. You may also contact them to discuss placement of a bench.

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Getting 'plugged in' to the forest

While working in the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest (NHAL), I have noticed our visitors utilizing smartphones, iPads, and other 21st century camping equipment to get plugged in and enrich the outdoor living experience. I see people researching (that is, if they can get enough bars and get a connection) things like identifying the different tree species residing in their campsite, searching for an app that charts the skies for stargazing that night, what you do for that strange and itchy rash creeping across your four-year-old's arm, or starting a friction fire with just a stick because someone forgot to pack the matches. I am not a tech geek (I actually am one of those few that would like the car bag phones from the 90s to come back), but I do have a laptop I use frequently and admittedly find myself kind of unplugged when this informational fountain of a resource is not available. However, I am always looking for ideas and methods that plug me into the land and forest and be more in touch with the natural world around me.

My background is engineering related, but when I had a chance to work in such a wonderful place as the NHAL I realized this would be a very rewarding way to further this connection, being that our occupation occupies many of our waking hours. So, being truly plugged in for me is more of finding a sense of belonging in a natural place, respectively utilizing what it offers, and doing my small part to whole-heartedly exist and glean what it affords me over my lifetime. And to, somehow, return part of this fulfilling consideration through the appreciation and enjoyment of what I see and take away from such an important responsibility.



As I get older, the need to realize this has developed and manifested into a varied soup of activities and pursuits. Eventually, we all search for the things that plug us into our experiences that connect us to the ground, air, and water while enjoying the outside world. For me, making fishing and hunting equipment, and using it when afield has been a very rewarding plugged in experience. It has also led me down a path where the need for shoes is optional and the feeling of the earth beneath my feet is strongly desired.

Learning to use less and be with less when outdoors simplifies and affords a state of self-sufficiency that enhances an overall sense of well-being and belonging. It can be anything from building a bow from a tree found in a favorite woodlot or utilizing natural and (best of all) free wild grocery items for a nutritious meal. It has been said the best things in life are free and I have discovered the best place to find free is in your own imagination and resourcefulness.

In the 236,000 acres of NHAL, there are so many free treasures to be found. All we have to do is venture out, spend a little time with keen observation, and see the invaluable importance in NHAL flora and fauna

through its beauty and simplicity. So, the next time you are out wandering and wondering what to do when visiting the NHAL, take advantage of the free, natural, and simple offerings the forest provides.

Get plugged in and learn some of the trees, plants, and even insects crawling around in the forest. Bring the fishing gear, get plugged into a hot fishing spot, and enjoy some free fresh food. Instead of cooking that fish over a fire you started with a match or lighter try using friction fire items you have hunted for and gathered with your kids. It's free and the memories you will have doing it will last a lifetime for everyone involved (good or bad). The art of making fire is something humans have been perfecting for tens of thousands of years and an antiquated skillset we don't use much anymore. But, if you make it a healthy competition between the parents and the kids or siblings working out a silly rivalry, the primal instinct that manifests in such a ritual will bolster relationship bonds for life and connect you with one of our most underappreciated elements – fire.

Lately, I have been plugging myself to the earth via my bare feet. Last fall, I was walking down a road in my bare feet carrying my shoes when an older gentleman pulled up alongside me and offered, "Ya need a ride buddy?" I politely replied "No, thank you..." He then lamented, "Ok, I just thought you might be having issues with your feet... I do all the time." I gave the considerate fellow a grateful nod and chuckled to myself as he drove on down the road, and thought (in life) we are all different and walk different paths and some of us walk these paths barefoot.

FUN FACT #7

By **KIMBERLY KRAWCZYK**
CRYSTAL LAKE RANGER
STATION MANAGER

The Black Lagoon. No sightings of the creature reported yet, but the NHAL has its own Black Lagoon that feels pretty similar to the Wakulla Springs of the 1954 monster horror film (if you visit the spot in the heat of summer that is). This swampy wet area dominated by black spruce and tamarack is typical of a northern forested bog or fen. The forested wetlands of the NHAL include black spruce, tamarack, northern white cedar, and swamp hardwoods habitats. Forested wetlands have high value for various wildlife species such as Neotropical migrant birds, and rare species like the Yellow-Bellied Flycatcher. And, like non-forested wetlands, forested wetlands have high watershed protection value. Forested wetlands have slow plant succession and a low potential for the land to support other tree species. In pre-European settlement forested wetlands, tamarack was by far the leading dominant tree with black spruce as a common associate. The peatland forests were cut at the turn of the century and have regenerated naturally, with a slow increase in tamarack in open areas. Over time, there has been a shift from tamarack to later-successional black spruce. The Black Lagoon can be found surrounding a boardwalk spur of the Star Lake Trail off of Hwy K.

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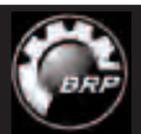
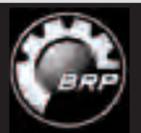
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Reservations available at Big Lake and Sandy Beach Lake Campgrounds this season, Plum Lake campground in 2016

Last year, we announced that there would be an opportunity to reserve campsites at Big Lake and Sandy Beach Lake Campgrounds this season. With the addition of reservable campsites at Big Lake and Sandy Beach, reservations are now offered at eight of the 18 campgrounds here at Northern Highland American Legion State Forest. We have expanded our availability of reservable campsites because we have seen a trend over the past several years toward increased use of our campground reservation system. We are finding that, increasingly, campers want to have their campsite reserved in advance. Some folks want to make sure that they can camp on a specific campsite, while others simply want the peace of mind of knowing that they have a campsite waiting for them when they arrive (particularly if they are traveling a long distance to get here). And in our busiest campgrounds, reservations are highly recommended just to make sure that you have a place to camp when you arrive.

If you have never camped at Big Lake or Sandy Beach, I encourage you to make a reservation this year or in the future to check out one or both of them. Both are quieter, less busy campgrounds. Both campgrounds also have nice beaches and are on good fishing lakes. With a newly completed trail along Hwy. K, Big Lake is in close proximity to the vast local network of paved bike trails. Sandy Beach has a large picnic area and is in close proximity to the Powell Trail and Powell Marsh State Wildlife Area.

With the addition of reservable sites at Big Lake and Sandy Beach there are some slight changes relating to the arrival/registration process that all campers at those two campgrounds need to be aware of.

With reservations

For campers who have taken advantage of making reservations, when you arrive at the campground please fill out a self-registration envelope. Indicate on the self-registration envelope that you have a reservation. Since your camping fees are paid when making a reservation, the only fees you would need to deposit are any necessary vehicle admission fees. Once



you have completed and deposited the self-registration envelope, you can proceed to your campsite, post the appropriate copy of the self-registration, and enjoy your camping trip.

Without reservations

For campers who don't have reservations, it is important to know that some campsites are reservable, while others are not. All reservable sites are marked with a "reservable" sign on the post. If the site that you want to camp on is not reservable, proceed with the standard self-registration procedure (this is also new this year at Big Lake, please see the related article in this paper).

If the site you want to camp on is marked "reservable," you must first verify that there is not a reservation arriving on that site on the date that you are arriving. This information is posted on the campsite post where the date of the next reservation will be displayed. You should be aware, however, that reservations can be made up to 24 hours prior to check-in and cancellations can be made anytime, so this information is only guaranteed to be accurate on the day of your arrival. If the site does not have a reservation arriving the date that you are arriving, you can self-register for the site for one night only. If you wish to camp on the site for more than one night, you will need to make contact with the resident manager or Reserve America (1-888-947-2757) as soon as possible to see if the site is available during your desired stay and to register. Remember – someone could be reserving your site for tomorrow; if you wish to stay on your site longer you have to reserve it before anyone else does.

If you don't have a reservation and you want to be guaranteed that your campsite



Melissa Baker photograph

Site 1805 at Big Lake Campground offers a beautiful view of the lake.

is available for your desired length of stay, the best course of action is to choose a non-reservable site (approximately half of the sites at Big Lake and Sandy Beach campgrounds are not reservable). If your favorite site or the site you just have to have is a reservable site you will need to contact the resident manager or Reserve America as soon as possible upon arrival to register for the site for your desired length of stay.

Looking toward the future, some campsites at Plum Lake Campground will be reservable beginning in the 2016 season. Sites 1207-1210 and 1214-1218 will be reservable for 2016, and as with all other reservable sites, reservations can be made up to 11 months in advance. If Plum Lake is your campground of choice, you might want to consider making reservations for your visit(s) in 2016. If you haven't camped at Plum Lake before, but are a camper who prefers to have your site reserved for you, I invite you to give Plum Lake a try in 2016. The registration procedure for Plum Lake

campers will not change with the addition of reservations next year, all campers will still need to register at the Crystal Lake ranger station.

I hope that the addition of reservations at Big Lake, Sandy Beach, and Plum Lake is appreciated by those campers who prefer to reserve their campsite in advance, while still offering plenty of opportunity for campers who prefer not to make a reservation. For our campers who prefer not to make reservations, we will continue to offer plenty of non-reservable campsites. NHAL has always held a unique niche in providing a large number of non-reservable campsites and will continue to do so.

Reservations are made through Reserve America by phone (888-947-2757) or online at www.wiparks.net.

I welcome your feedback on this expansion of reservations in our campgrounds or any other feedback on our campgrounds and how they function. I can be reached at 715-385-3355 ext 113 or joseph.fieweger@wi.gov.

Self-registration in rustic campgrounds

Beginning this season, campers at all of our rustic campgrounds with resident managers will be asked to self-register upon arrival. Campers at Buffalo Lake, Cunard Lake, East Star, West Star, and Sandy Beach Lake Campgrounds were introduced to self-registration in 2014. This season, self-registration will also be in place at Big Lake, North Trout, Razorback Lake, Starrett Lake, and Upper Gresham Lake Campgrounds. (There are no changes to the registration process for the rest of the campgrounds that register through the ranger stations).

We are using self-registration in our campgrounds with resident managers to provide better customer service to our campers. In the past, some campers (especially those unfamiliar with the resident manager registration process) have felt like they needed to "hang around" their campsite until the resident manager came around and registered them. Others have just been uncertain about when and how their registration would be taken care of. Using self-registration allows you to immediately take care of your registration upon arrival. Once you have completed the self-reg-



istration process, you are set for your campsite and you can go about enjoying your visit to the forest.

Resident managers remain a valuable part of our team and do a lot of work in their campgrounds. They are still available to answer your questions and provide information, deliver any vehicle admission stickers that you paid for through self-registration to your campsite, and they might have to gather additional information from you or correct an error that was made in the self-registration process. They can also provide you with a copy of the property newspaper and Wisconsin Explorers for the kids. In addition to providing direct customer service to campers, they also take care

of the daily cleaning of the toilet buildings and a variety of other maintenance tasks within their campgrounds.

Many campers are familiar with self-registration from using it at other campgrounds. Here are some tips for making your use of self-registration goes smoothly here on the forest:

1. When you arrive at the campground, find an available site like you normally would – a site that is vacant and does not have a reservation arriving (currently only Big Lake and Sandy Beach Lake have both self-registration and reservable sites).

2. Park your vehicle and/or camping unit on your chosen site or drop off some personal items on the site.

3. Before setting up camp, go to the self-registration station near the campground entrance and complete and deposit your self-registration. Carefully follow the instructions posted at the self-registration station. Please fill out the envelope legibly and completely and be sure to deposit the correct amount of money for both camping fees and vehicle admission fees. If you do not have correct change the resident

manager will stop by your site later with your change.

4. Immediately after depositing your self-registration return to your campsite and post the appropriate copy of the self-registration on the post.

5. Enjoy your camping trip! If you are going to leave your site right away before setting up camp, please leave a vehicle, camping unit, or some other items on the site so the site does not appear to be vacant. (Note – the site must be occupied with a usable camping unit the first night and every night of your self-registration.)

As with any change, this may take some time to get used to. I hope that you will find that your self-registration experience goes smoothly and allows you to get the "business" out of the way as soon as you arrive at your camping destination and get on to enjoying your vacation!

I welcome your feedback on this change to self-registration in these campgrounds or any other feedback on our campgrounds and how they function. I can be reached at 715-385-3355 ext 113 or joseph.fieweger@wi.gov.



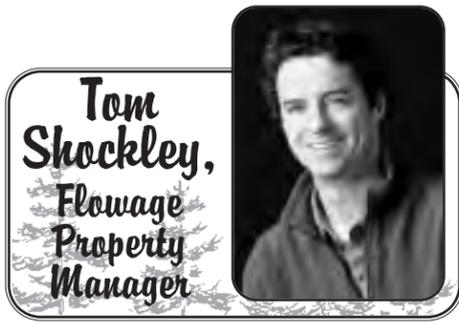
Willow Flowage Scenic Area

With limited development and access, the Willow Flowage is a large island studded reservoir with a truly wild flavor. The property is located in west central Oneida County and includes 73 miles of shoreline (95 percent of which is undeveloped), 106 islands, and 7 boat landings. The DNR-managed portion of the property, including the flowage, encompasses approximately 30,000 acres where hunting, fishing, paddling, and hiking opportunities abound.

There are 33 rustic campsites scattered along the shoreline and islands; all Campsites are occupied on a first come-first served basis with no registration, no reservations, and no fees. Campsite amenities include a fire ring (with cooking grill), picnic table, and outdoor toilet. The 28 single-unit campsites accommodate up to 6 people and the 5 group sites allow up to 15 people. Campers are welcome to stay for up to 10 days.

Designated as an Outstanding Resource Water in 1997, the Willow Flowage supports a diversity of aquatic plants, fish, and wildlife. Abundant wall-eye and panfish populations, along with northern pike, muskellunge, and large and smallmouth bass, make fishing the primary draw. White-tailed deer, bear, ruffed grouse, ducks, geese, eagles, loons and even wolves roam the area. There are currently 10 nesting pairs of ospreys on the flowage that provide lucky visitors with dramatic fishing displays from April through October.

An active forestry program is in place on the Willow Flowage to provide forest products to local industries, maintain prime wildlife habitat, emphasize forest diversity, and to promote a natural and aesthetically pleasing appearance. Future thinnings of selected trees and occasional prescribed burns will help restore the shoreline to historic forest conditions dominated by long-lived tree species



such as red and white pine. Six DNR-managed boat landings on the Willow provide access for motor boats, canoes, and kayaks. The two boat landings on the east side of the property near the dam provide the most parking and are the most reliable during periods of low water. Parking areas near the dam are paved and offer toilet facilities to visitors. The four landings on the west side of the property are more rustic and offer unpaved landings and parking areas.

For those who would like to explore the beautiful and largely undeveloped sections of the Tomahawk River, canoe and kayak access is located off of Willow Dam Road and Swamp Lake Road. The access areas include small parking lots that accommodate up to five cars and foot paths to the river for landing small boats. The Tomahawk River in this area is mostly gentle and classed as low-gradient. However, there are two separate class II rapids (Half-Breed Rapids east of Hwy. Y and Prairie Rapids north of Prairie Rapids Road) where portaging is highly recommended. In recent years, the State of Wisconsin's Stewardship Fund has helped expand public land ownership along the lower Tomahawk River. There are now over 2,000 acres under DNR management along the lower Tomahawk River between the Willow Flowage and Lake Nokomis. Thanks to the Stewardship Fund, this important river corridor will be preserved for future generations



Dean Baker photograph

There are 33 rustic campsites on the scenic Willow Flowage.

to enjoy. The Tomahawk River is one of the first areas with open water in the spring making it heavily trafficked by eagles and migratory birds. The largely undeveloped nature of the river corridor makes it a popular destination for many forms of recreation including hunting, hiking, canoeing, kayaking, and fishing.

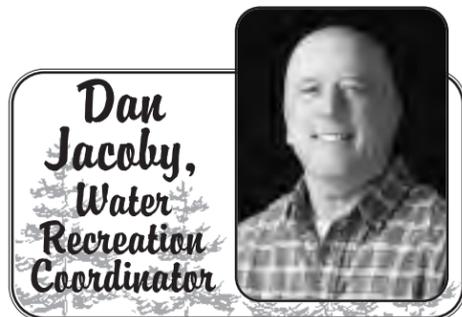
Although many of the campsites on the flowage are most easily accessed by watercraft, the Willow Nature Trail, located just north of the dam on Willow Dam Road, provides walk-in access to sites 1 through 4. Visitors are welcome to use the paved parking lot to access the trail which includes over one mile of crushed-granite surface and another mile of mowed trail out to Indian Shack Point. Interpretive signs, scenic vistas, and trail-side benches are located along the trail. The granite portion of the trail has been engineered to be handicap accessible with a firm base and moderate slopes. Campsite number 2, located just over ½ mile from the parking lot, also has a granite surface to accommodate visitors with mobility impairments.

The Wisconsin DNR has enjoyed a long and successful partnership with Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company (WVIC), the former owners of the Willow Flowage. The dam on the Willow is still owned and operated by WVIC to provide a steady supply of water to downstream locations on the Wisconsin River. The fluctuating water level on the flowage can provide visitors with spectacular shoreline views and non-motorized access throughout the summer. Current water level information is available on the web at www.wvic.com.

The Willow Flowage is located west of US Hwy 51 along County Hwy Y. Color brochures and maps are available at the Northern Highland – American Legion State Forest Contact Stations or at the Woodruff DNR Service Center. For a wild experience described as “almost Canada,” come visit the Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area.

For more information call Tom Shockley, Property Manager, at 715-356-5211 ext. 259 or send an email to tom.shockley@wisconsin.gov

Recreation is accessible to all on the NHAL



Employees on the NHAL State Forest are always looking to improve accessibility on the property. Family campgrounds, canoe campsites, boat landings, trails, and shooting ranges are places we have improved accessibility. Accessibility improvements do not only pertain to those in wheel chairs. Many people use walkers or canes for balance and are included in our plans to expand mobility.

Campgrounds

Many of our family campgrounds provide a full range of accessible facilities for campers. Each of the shower buildings on the property has an accessible bathroom with appropriate fixtures and a private shower stall. People with mobility needs should inquire at the ranger station for access to this locked facility. In addition, we have several accessible campsites in the family campgrounds

which have accessible picnic tables (with one end that one can “wheel under”) and raised fire grates. The following sites are accessible:

Designated accessible campsites (all of these sites are reservable):

- Crystal Lake:** 438
- 463 (electric)
- Musky Lake:** 318
- Firefly Lake:** 222
- 271 (electric)
- Clear Lake:** 800

Crystal, Musky, Clear and Firefly all have designated accessible showers.

Canoe Campsite

There are many campsites that are accessible by canoe only on the NHAL. These sites are available for one night only on a first-come first serve basis and are free to use. One of these sites, on Boulder Lake, has an accessible dock, raised fire ring, wheel-under table and a latrine nearby. This site can be busy in July and August.

Fishing docks

The NHAL has three accessible fishing docks with benches and accessible railings. These are located at Upper Gresham Campground, Clear Lake Picnic

Area, and the Carrol Lake Boat Landing parking area. The fishing dock at Carrol Lake also has an accessible picnic table and grill along the path to the dock.

Making a smooth transition area for all types of mobility impairments is important to us. Many of the existing docks have a transition plate which bridges the dock surface to the approach area. The transition plate eliminates the need for a step up from the asphalt to the surface of the dock.

There are several other docks managed by local communities that may also serve your needs. One of these is the town dock in Minocqua. Two more are managed by the town of Sayner and are located on Plum Lake. The first of these is by the post office on Plum Lake in the town of Sayner and the second is a dock built on an old wood bridge on Plum Lake, visible from Highway N. Parking for this site is off Hwy N and next to the Plum Creek with a rather long path leading to the dock.

Trails

The Tom Roberts Trail is an accessible on-quarter mile paved nature trail located behind the Nature Center at Crystal Lake Picnic Area. This paved trail can be used by people with varying degrees of mobility. It can be a pleasant experience to



walk or wheel on a smooth paved surface that does not have vehicle traffic.

Shooting ranges

The Caywood Shooting Range on the NHAL, located north of Minocqua on Hwy. 51, has a covered shooting station with accessible bench and path to the 50 and 100 yard targets.

We continue to strive to help people access the areas they wish to explore. We welcome your comments about our accessible facilities and your ideas for where we could provide additional access in the future.

Dan Jacoby is the NH-AL Boat Landing Coordinator and can be reached at 715-385-3355 extension 118.

Healthy trees and forests depend on you!

The threat

Campfire wood can hide insects or diseases that kill Wisconsin's trees. Gypsy moth, emerald ash borer, oak wilt and others spread easily when hidden in firewood.

Your role

"Each year, more campers protect the trees where they work, live and play by getting firewood at or near their camping destination, or buying certified firewood," said Andrea Diss-Torrance, forest pest expert with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Nurseries, loggers, mills and other industries are doing their part too and they are strictly regulated when forests are threatened.

Firewood can be an easy ride for invasive hitchhikers – unless you do your part too. It is safest and easiest to leave firewood at home, purchase wood at your destination, or purchase only wood certified by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, which has been specially

processed to kill hitchhiking tree pests and diseases.

Rule changes

Firewood laws and regulations are updated based on changes in the risks our forests face from harmful pests and diseases. In June 2014, the Wisconsin firewood rule changed to offer additional protection to our state forests and trees.

Firewood basics

Firewood movement onto all DNR-managed lands is restricted. All firewood for sale at the properties is either Wisconsin certified or from the property itself. All non-certified firewood brought into a Wisconsin state park or forest must be:

- 1) cut within 10 miles of the state park or forest campground, and
- 2) NOT cut or stored in an out-of-state county that is quarantined for EAB, and
- 3) NOT cut or stored in a pest quarantined area of Wisconsin, (unless the property is also in the same or a connected quarantined area).

In Wisconsin, you may not move firewood from a quarantined area to a non-quarantined area unless it is Wisconsin certified. Enforcement can include fines and jail time. Quarantine maps and more firewood details are online at: dnr.wi.gov, keyword "firewood."

What you can do

In Wisconsin, campers can take simple steps to help protect the state's healthy forests. These tips and more helpful information are online at dnr.wi.gov. Search "firewood":

1. Leave firewood at home. Purchase firewood certified by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture or within an allowed distance from your destination, based on current law. Also, many properties offer firewood for sale or private sellers have it available near the park.
2. Burn your firewood at your campsite; do not take it with you to another destination.
3. Cook over gas or charcoal. Instead of a campfire, explore new night-time

activities like star-gazing.

4. Stay updated and follow firewood rules and regulations.

Additional information

Campfires are an important part of the outdoor experience in Wisconsin, but we must all take a few precautions to keep our forested areas and campgrounds – and our city parks and yards – safe from invasive insects and diseases.

Campers will find reasonably-priced firewood within or nearby all state parks and forests. Wood from unapproved sources may be confiscated and destroyed. "We are counting on campers to help us protect the quality of our forest by complying with the rules," said Steve Petersen, NHAL State Forest Superintendent. Firewood is available at Crystal Lake Ranger Station, Clear Lake Ranger Station and all Rustic Campgrounds. Ask a ranger, visitor services associate, or campground host about firewood rules, or visit online: dnr.wi.gov, keyword "firewood."



Campfire Safety

By Catherine Koele

Wisconsin DNR

Wildfire Prevention Specialist

Maybe you are new to camping or never had much success in building a campfire, either way, there are a few tips to keep in mind for your next outing. For some expert advice, I had the opportunity to interview my friend Smokey Bear himself to walk us through the steps of building the perfect campfire and making sure it's safe from starting a wildfire. Here's what I learned:

Catherine:

How do you prepare for a campfire, Smokey?

Smokey:

It's important to pick a good location. Look for a fire ring. If there isn't a fire ring, look for an area that is designated for campfires. The firewood you use should be dry and clean, free from any chemicals. And, make sure you use only local firewood so you don't transport problem insects into new locations.

Catherine:

Are there any fire safety tips when picking a location?

Smokey:

You bet! Pick a location that is free from burnable materials, such as leaves and pine needles. Place your tent and



Catherine Koele and Smokey Bear.

Cool Campfires!

Here's how to safely build three kinds of campfires:



TEEPEE: Make a pile of tinder and arrange your kindling over it like poles of a teepee. Keep the teepee shape as you add more wood to the fire.

Use this checklist to make sure your campfire is safe.

DO

- Light a fire only when an adult is present and in charge.
- Keep young children and pets away from the fire.
- Make sure your campfire is a safe distance from your tent or anything that can burn.
- Keep your fire within a designated fire ring.
- Use the Drown-Stir-Drown-Feel method to put out your campfire safely.
- Get firewood where you use it.

DON'T

- Don't start a campfire when it is windy.
- Don't leave a fire unattended.
- Don't leave your fire without first putting it completely out.
- Don't use flammable liquids to start a campfire.
- Don't extinguish a campfire with just dirt or sand – add H₂O!
- Don't bury warm/hot coals or ashes in a campfire pit.
- Don't burn glass, cans, plastics, or garbage in your campfire.
- Don't play or goof around near a campfire.



CROSS FIRE: Place a pile of tinder between the two parallel pieces of kindling. Once the fire is burning, lay more pieces of kindling across the fire perpendicular to the first pair. As you add larger sticks to the fire, make each new layer perpendicular to the last, building a pyramid shape.



LOG CABIN: Surround your tinder with a square of kindling built by laying two sticks parallel on either side of the tinder, then two sticks on top of and perpendicular to the first pair. Build up several levels and end with a "roof" of small kindling across the top. Add larger sticks in pairs to keep the fire's log cabin shape.

firewood at a safe distance from the fire. And, before you burn, always check to make sure there isn't a ban on campfires due to dry conditions.

Catherine:

What are some ways to make a good campfire?

Smokey:

I like to make a campfire in a square frame format. Just a couple of pieces of wood on each side, and add a couple more on top of those. Then, roll up some newspaper and place it in the center. Add a few smaller sticks on top of the paper in a crisscross pattern. Never use flammable liquids because they can be very dangerous. An adult should always be present and never allow children to handle the matches or lighters.

Catherine:

After the fire has started, what are some things to look for to make certain the fire is safe?

Smokey:

The number one rule is to keep the fire small in size. Always have a bucket of water and tools nearby, like a rake or shovel. When adding logs to the fire, be sure to watch for flying embers. Campfires on windy days are never a good idea and never leave your fire unattended!

Catherine:

What are some of your favorite things to do around a campfire, Smokey?

Smokey:

Campfires are great for cooking hot dogs or roasting marshmallows. I also enjoy the warmth of a fire at night and use the light to tell ghost stories or sing songs. One thing I never do is use my fire as a garbage disposal. I prefer to always take my garbage home and recycle because there are a lot of toxic fumes that come from burning plastics and other waste.

Catherine:

What should you do with your fire when finished?

Smokey:

Make sure that fire is out before you leave! Drown the fire with plenty of water, stir the ashes with your shovel, add more water, and stir again. Place the back of your hand over the ashes to check for any heat. If so, repeat the steps until the ashes are cold.

Catherine:

Do you have any famous last words for any future campers?

Smokey:

Fire prevention is everyone's responsibility. Remember, only you can prevent wildfires!

Satisfying your electrical needs while minimizing generator use

By Steve Petersen
NHAL Superintendent

If you read my annual column, you already know my wife and I bought a travel trailer last fall. We look forward to spending a lot of time in our campgrounds this summer. We looked at a lot of different trailers before we made our decision and after spending a number of weekends in it, into November last fall, we really like it. But the dilemma I face is that I'm a tinkerer and can always see room for improvement. My boss told me recently, as we were discussing homebrewing "There are two kinds of home brewers: biologists and engineers. I can tell you're an engineer." It's just in me to always seek process improvement.

Many of you are aware that our campgrounds here lack electric pedestals. I hate the idea of running a big generator to meet my camping electric supply wishes. So the challenge is to live comfortably in our trailer while running the generator as little as possible.

My first goal was to reduce the amount of energy I use. What this amounted to so far is that I replaced nearly all my incandescent lightbulbs with LEDs. They use about 10 percent of the energy that the

incandescents do. But I had a limit, as LEDs aren't cheap yet, so I focused on the bulbs that get the most use. For instance it didn't make financial sense for me to replace my refrigerator or range hood bulb since they don't get much use at all.

The next step I took was to buy batteries that provided as much capacity as I could sensibly carry. What this meant is that I picked up a pair of true deep-cycle 6 volt flooded-cell batteries that I connected in series to meet my 12 volt needs. After a lot of research, it seemed like this was the best fit for me. The batteries will last many years and accept a charge reasonably quickly. I considered Absorbed Glass Mat (AGM) batteries but the cost was high. On the other hand, the AGM batteries are lighter-weight and it sounds like they can be placed in an unvented location. AGMs accept a charge more rapidly but don't last as many years. It's a balance here, and I chose a path that you might not want to.

The battery setup we have has a capacity of 235 amp hours. But that doesn't mean I can use all 235 of 'em. Flooded cell batteries don't like to be discharged lower than 50 percent charge capacity and, going the other direction, they quickly charge to 80 percent and then the

charge acceptance diminishes. So what I'm planning for is about 30 percent of that 235 amp-hour capacity, or around 70 amp hours.

Here's where a little budgeting comes into play. During the summer I have no intention of running the air conditioner, a huge energy user. But during spring and fall I will use the furnace, so that's the biggest electricity user I have to worry about now. The furnace fan draws around 11 amps so it could run around 6 hours before depleting my battery bank. But there are other draws on the bank, and the furnace doesn't run constant, so in practice I can get through a couple nights in the 30s while using my LED lamps carefully.

While I have a 5,600 watt generator for back-up use at my house, and it's the one I'll use while camping for now, I would like to have a much smaller one for the trailer. My trailer has a 30 amp service so it really doesn't make much sense to have

a generator larger than 3,500 watts absolute max (surge capacity). In practice, and remember I don't plan to use my air conditioner, I'm only intending to meet the needs that my converter demands and that is around 2,000 watts. That is what the converter draws at its maximum charge rate to the batteries. In two hours, I'll be able to replace the 70 amp hours I may have used between 50 percent charged and 80 percent charged. Then I'll turn off the generator because to move the next 20 percent of charge state will take many more hours. It's the nature of batteries and your battery manufacturer will have information and charts explaining that.

The reason for the longer time to reach full charge is that the battery can only accept a lower voltage at the upper levels of its state-of-charge. This is where it gets interesting. Solar (photovoltaic) is an

See NEEDS. . . page 20

Winter respite

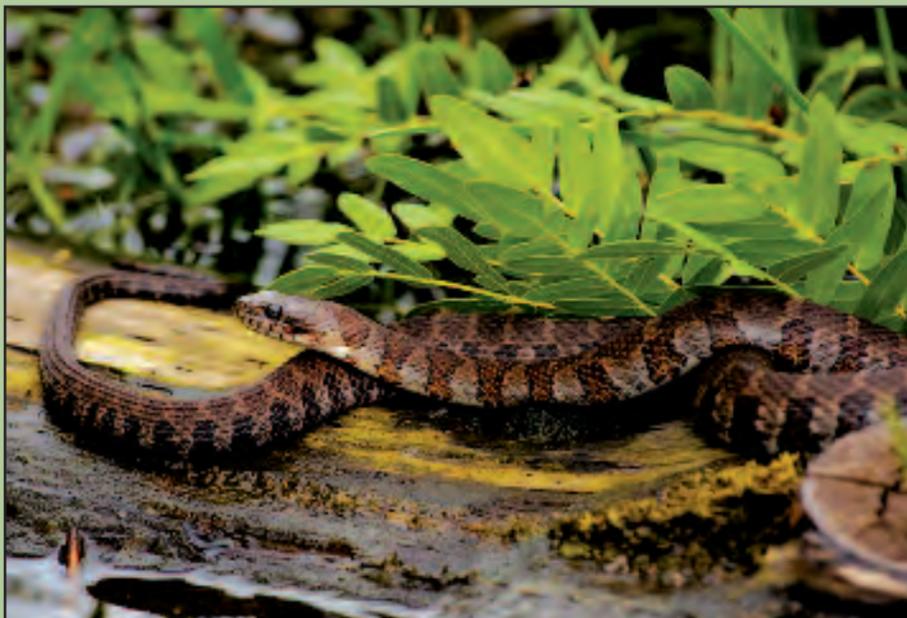
Stunning winter scenes like this are abundant on the forest.

Dean Baker photograph



Northern Highland American Legion State Forest Campground Spring 2015 Opening Dates and Fall 2015 Closing Dates			
<u>Open/Plowed All Year</u>			
Clear Lake			
<u>Open Except During Winter Snow Period (not plowed)</u>			
Crystal	Muskie	Firefly	Indian Mounds
Carrol	Razorback	West Star	North Trout
Big Lake			
<u>Opening the Thursday before Fishing Opener (April 30th, 2015)</u> <u>Closing the Tuesday after Columbus Day (Oct. 13th, 2015)</u>			
Starrett	Gresham	Buffalo	
<u>Opening the Monday before Memorial Day (May 18th, 2015)</u> <u>Closing the Tuesday after Labor Day (Sept. 8th, 2015)</u>			
South Trout	Cunard	Plum	
<u>Opening the Monday before Memorial Day (May 18th, 2015)</u> <u>Closing the Tuesday after Columbus Day (Oct. 13th, 2015)</u>			
Sandy Beach	East Star		

Creatures of the forest



Dean Baker photograph

This northern water snake pauses on a log on The Northern Highland American Legion State Forest. Northern water snakes are live-bearers meaning they do not lay eggs but give birth to live young. Source: www.fcps.edu.



Dean Baker photograph

A painted turtle catches warm rays of the sun at Cunard Lake. The painted turtle is the most common turtle found in Wisconsin.

NEEDS

From page 19

attractive option to reach full capacity. I understand that I can buy a lot of gasoline for the money it takes to buy a modest solar electric system but I also am considering the people in the next campsite as well as the wear and tear on the generator. There is a lot of information on the internet about photovoltaic use in RVs and, who knows, maybe I'll take the leap sometime.

I've mentioned that for my use I'm really operating in that 50-80 percent state of charge but how can I tell precisely what state my batteries are? I don't have a solution installed yet but I'm going to use a battery monitor that uses a shunt to measure the amps in and out of the battery and is programmed to compare that to the capacity. But why? Well, I don't want to waste generator gas on over-charging (or charging beyond what's practical, that 80percent level) or bothering my camper-neighbors, and I also want to keep my batteries above 50percent. Simple voltmeters are highly influenced by recent draws or charges and the battery needs to be rested

for many hours for a voltmeter to accurately measure the state-of-charge.

There are some of you that might dispute my suggestion that I can charge from 50 to 80 percent in a couple hours and that might be valid. The converter that came with my travel trailer is rated to put out 55 amps at 13.6 volts. That sounds good but the data from my battery manufacturer tells me that I really need to put 14.4 volts on my batteries to get things done. So here's where things start to get expensive... What I'm considering is replacing that converter with an inverter-charger that can be programmed to a custom charge profile and really put the volts as well as the amps on the battery bank. The added benefit of an inverter charger is that it can provide me 120 volts from the battery bank. I can defrost my dinner in the microwave! Or I could turn on my TV (but I won't). Of course these are high amp-hour draws and would affect my battery amp-hour budget. The inverter-charger I'm considering offers an integrated battery monitor as well so I can keep an eye on things quite easily.

If you've stuck with me this far you might be asking yourself "What does all



Steve Petersen photograph

Steve Petersen camps at Sandy Beach Campground on the NHAL.

of this mean if I run a C-pap/Bi-pap machine?" Here are my thoughts. If I really depend on that machine for comfortable sleep I would feel more secure running it on an inverter and battery. The machines typically draw around 2 or 3 amps at 120 volts (240-360 watts) when running, depending on the settings, heater, and humidifier. The peak draw at startup might be 600 watts or so. But the point is that it can easily run a night and probably several on a true deep-cycle 12-volt battery (not a "marine" battery) and a

modestly priced inverter. You'll have to charge that battery occasionally but that can be done during normal generator hours fairly rapidly. And here's a case where an AGM battery and a basic solar charger used every day might be extremely cost effective compared to owning a generator.

Yep, boss – I'm an engineer at heart. Here are my tinkerer's thoughts on RV electric usage and I'm interested to hear your thoughts and tips on camping without electric hook-ups here at NHAL.

Lyme disease: What you may or may not know

International Lymes and Associated Diseases Organization.

Lyme disease (LD) is the most common vector-borne disease in America and considered an endemic in Wisconsin. According to the Center for Disease control, in 2009 approximately 38,000 cases were reported in the US. But because of apparent flaws in the surveillance/reporting system cases more likely exceed 450,000. Recent studies of tick infested areas document that 1 in 5 ticks carry Lyme disease and co-infections. The recent Lyme map shows Wisconsin, along with many New England states, have higher incidence of LD.

Transmission

The black-legged tick, *Ixodes scapularis*, is the most common carrier of LD in the mid-western and eastern states. *I. pacificus* is known to be the vector in the west. Other species of ticks such as the dog tick or wood tick, the lone-star tick and the rabbit tick, and biting insects such as mosquitoes, deer flies and horse flies have been shown to carry the Lyme disease bacterium and co-infections. However, their ability to transmit the disease is not known at this. There is a myth that the tick has to be attached for 24 hours before transmission can take place. The truth is transmission can occur within a few hours. So, it is important to do frequent tick checks. Studies of human transmission are few, however, LD spirochetes have been found in human breast milk, tears, urine and semen. Through some studies the disease has shown that it can be transmitted to the fetus in the womb by an infected mother.

Bacterial invasion and testing

Lyme bacteria can exhibit differing forms in the infected organism: spirochete, I-form and cyst. These forms can complicate both testing and treatment. When in cyst form, by hiding in cells and tissues, a person can test negative – since antibodies do not recognize this form as an invader. At this stage of infection treatment becomes more difficult and strong antibiotics are used to "scare" the cysts out of the tissues and then can be treated more readily in the spirochete form.

Standard testing is unreliable. Most regular medical practioners use a stepped approach by first using ELISA and then the Western Blot. The ELISA

test is the simplest, least expensive, easiest to perform, and most common Lyme test ordered. It is a test based on detecting the antibodies that our bodies make in response to being exposed to Lymes. However, because of varying forms of the bacteria, this test is only 30 to 50percent reliable at detecting LD.

The Western Blot essentially makes a map of the different antibodies the immune system produces to the bacteria. The map separates the antibodies by the weight of their respective antigens. The test is more reliable up to 80percent. Most Lyme literate doctors use a thorough, clinical evaluation of symptoms and don't rely solely on these tests since seronegative is very common. And not to forget there are a list of co-infections which most medical practioners do not test for including Bartonella, Powassan, Ehrlichiosis, Babesiosis and Mycoplasmas.

Know the symptoms

Lyme disease, as it progresses in the body, has 3 stages (if left untreated). Being a great mimicker of other diseases, there are over 100 symptoms of this disease and can be diagnosed as something else. And each infected person may have differing symptoms to greater or lesser degree. Bull-eye rash or radiating red spots only show in about 30 percent of cases but headache, fatigue, continual neck stiffness and muscle pain are common in the early stages. As LD progresses in the body it can affect any organ including the brain, heart and joints and can become a chronic disease. It is important to know your body and if symptoms persist. It's also helpful to know the symptoms of the co-infections such as those listed above. At the end of this article lists the different stages and symptoms of LD.

Treatment

Opinion within the medical community is deeply divided regarding the best approach for treating Lyme disease, particularly LD that is not cured by short-term protocols. There is controversy between physicians as to how long and what is the best mode of treatment.

In many of these cases, relapses occur while on short-term, less aggressive treatment. Research has shown that LD can stay in the body in remission and surface at times with low immunity. When LD has advanced to the disseminated or late

stages, its best to seek out a Lyme literate doctor of which there are few in the state. In my situation, eleven years ago I had LD, was treated with short term antibiotics and it appeared to be cured.

However, last year my symptoms reappeared (maybe a new tick bite) and were persistent while testing negative. Symptoms continued to get worse under regular medical attention so I decided to see a Lyme literate doctor. Fortunately, with several months of aggressive antibiotic treatment under supervision of a Lyme literate doctor, I am getting better. Because this is a chronic condition, I will still have to watch for flare up of symptoms.

What you can do?

It is important to know the facts and stay informed. LD is a great mimicker and can be diagnosed as something else. One of the better LD websites is ILADS.org, International Lymes and Associated Diseases Organization. Here they not only give you background information and latest research but also highlights the best treatment recommendations in agreement from Lyme literate doctors all over the world. If you do have some spare time, the DVD "Under our skin" is a gripping documentary of the untold story of LD and the medical community. It's a must see.

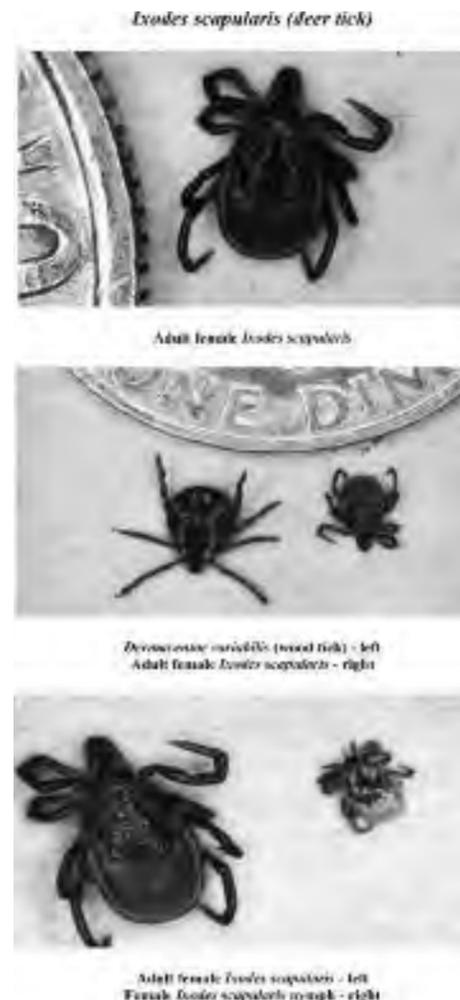
Prevention

There are many ways to protect yourself against ticks but nothing is 100 percent effective.

- Repellent – DEET is not always the best against ticks, Cloths sprayed or soaked in pyrethrin is better. Lemon Eucalyptus is a natural repellent that can be used in conjunction with pyrethrin.
- Repellent clothing – expensive but has been tested that it significantly reduces ticks
- Wear light colored clothing
- Do tick checks several times a day
- After your day afield, put cloths in a hot dryer to kill the buggers.

Stages of Lyme disease

The first stage of Lyme disease is called early Lyme disease. Early Lyme disease usually causes one or more of the following symptoms that occur days to weeks after infection. Fatigue, chills and fever, headache muscle and joint pain, swollen lymph nodes, rash or Erythema migraines



The second stage of Lyme disease is known as early disseminated Lyme disease, which means that the infection of bacteria is beginning to spread and is affecting certain body functions. This stage occurs weeks to months after the bite of an infected tick. Problems can include: numbness and pain in arms or legs; paralysis of facial muscles (usually on one side of the face); meningitis—fever, stiff neck, and severe headaches; abnormal heart beat (rare).

The third stage of Lyme disease is called late (or chronic) Lyme disease. This stage can occur weeks, months, or even years after infection in patients who either never received antibiotic treatment for early Lyme disease or whose treatment did not kill all of the bacteria that cause Lyme disease. Patients with late Lyme disease may get: Chronic Lyme arthritis—brief bouts of pain and swelling usually occurring in one or more of the large joints, especially the knees; nervous system problems, including memory loss and difficulty concentrating; chronic pain in muscles and/or unrestful sleep.

Canoe campsites on the NHAL

Many of you may be familiar with the great trail system on the NHAL, but you may not know that we have an expansive water trail system as well. Even the words "water trail" may seem a bit odd. A water trail is a combination of lakes, rivers, portages, and campsites that make up a route. The forest has six designated water trails, 88 free canoe campsites (one night stay limit), and 17 remote reservable lake campsites where you can get away from it all with your canoe.

There are many things to observe during a canoe trip. The quiet and remote experience allows you to hear the call of

loons at dawn, watch bald eagles soaring overhead during the day, and see deer come down to the water at dusk to drink. You may see wildlife like otters, beaver, muskrat, mink or even a bear. Most people come back from their trip relaxed and refreshed with their only complaint being, "I wish I could stay longer."

To help you plan your canoe trip, the NHAL has published a Canoe Route Map which is available at either the Clear Lake or Crystal Lake Ranger Station. The map will show you the location of all of the canoe and remote reservable

See CANOE. . . page 32



Dean Baker photograph

Canoes pulled ashore at an NHAL canoe campsite.

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 June 20 - Devil's Elbow 5K Sunset Trail Run/Walk
 June 21 - Blue Canvas Orchestra
 June 27 - Minocqua Island Swim Challenge
 July 4 - Muggy Buggy 5K & Xtreme Mud Run
 July 4 - Independence Day Festivities
 July 11 - Island Art Walk
 July 18 - Bear Cupboard Run Cubby Run, 5K Walk & 1/2 Marathon
 July 24 - 26 - Antique & Classic Wooden Boat Show
 July 25 - Mike Ross Memorial Bearskin 5K Run
 Aug. 1 - Mary Mile & 5K
 Aug. 1 - Arbor Vitae Fireman's Picnic
 Aug. 6 - After Loon Delight Arts & Crafts Fair
 Aug. 8 - Minocqua Triathlon
 Sept. 5 - Minocqua/Kawaguesaga Pig Roast
 Sept. 6 - No Frills Marathon
 Sept. 19 - Lake Tomahawk Harvest Festival
 Sept. 26 - Beef-a-Rama & Rump Roast Run
 Oct. 17 - Harvest of Holidays
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Invasives on the NHAL

Today nearly every corner of the globe is impacted both economically and environmentally by invasive, exotic plants. When introduced to a new area, their uncontrolled growth threatens

native plant communities, degrades fish and wildlife habitat and restricts recreational activities. On the NHAL State Forest invasive plant and animal invasions are showing up both in aquatic and

terrestrial habitats.

What you can do: learn how to identify them; educate friends and local nurseries; if you find a weed infested area, make the landowner aware; avoid

spreading the plants; and participate in local weed control and awareness activities. These are some invasive, exotics found on the NHAL and some weed control efforts in action.



Asian Honeysuckle



Purple loosestrife



Garlic mustard



Common buckthorn

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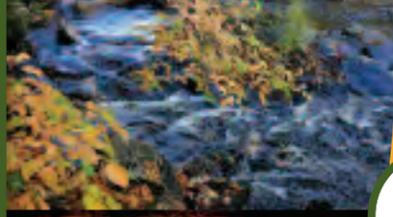
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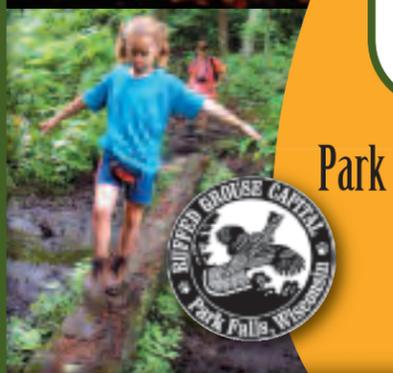
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Life As A Forester

By Chase Christopherson
Forester

When you meet someone for the first time, the most common getting-to-know-you question is “What do you do?” A question I never really like to be asked. Not because I’m not proud of what I do, but because it’s hard for me to explain to people exactly what I do. I am a forester on the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest. Unlike a teacher, a nurse, a carpenter, or a truck driver, for example, in which people have frequent interactions, foresters are often out in the woods and working alone. When I tell someone I’m a forester, I generally get comments like “oh, isn’t that nice” as if every day is a pleasant walk in the woods with a picnic lunch. Some days are in fact very pleasant, but most of the time it’s bugs, brush, hot and humid summer days, or frigid, snowy winter days. Anyways, you know I spend a lot of time in the woods, but what am I doing out there? Why does the forest need to be managed? What follows is my attempt to explain what I do and why it is important.

Imagine I am like a gardener and I work in a garden where the plants are 60 to 80 feet tall and sometimes over 100 feet tall. The size of the garden is very large and the time it takes for the plants to grow is very long. Everyone uses the garden in different ways and everyone wants the products from the garden, but not everyone likes to see those products harvested. Much like a healthy garden needs tending, so does a managed forest. A forest, like a garden, left to grow on its own would not produce what we need and want. Planting, weeding, site preparation, thinning, plant control, and insect and disease management are all required. Foresters are the intermediary between society’s wants and the forest ecosystem’s needs.

The forest is a constantly changing place. Nothing lives forever. The forest we see today will not exist like this forever due to forest succession – the replacement of one plant community by another over time. We use our knowledge of these changes for management.

The first thing I will do in managing the forest is take an inventory of what is out there by looking at soil maps, habitat types, air photos, and by collecting data on the ground. I measure tree density (basal area per acre and/or trees per acre), tree species distribution, tree age, tree diameters, tree heights and more. Then I take this data and determine what type of treatment is needed to get the results we want to see. I reference the master plan for the state forest and numerous handbooks for public lands. I look at the history of a site to see what the previous management plan was. What was the prior forester’s vision?

While I am writing about what I do, it really is a team effort. I consult with other professional foresters that work on the state forest as well as wildlife biologists, endangered resources specialists, recreation managers and others as necessary. I feel fortunate to be working with a great group of people.

Individual tree species have different requirements for optimum growth. Silvics is the life history and general characteristics of forest trees. Some trees grow best in full sunlight while others can thrive in the shade waiting for their opportunity to grow. Groups of similar trees form a forest stand. A stand is a group of trees uniform in age, composition, and structure, and growing on a site of uniform quality, to be a distinguishable unit. Different garden types are tended differently and different forest stand types receive different kinds of management. Forest types are generally restricted by the soils and available moisture. Get to know the soils and you



Maple and birch forest. Good forest management will help increase tree growth and vigor while maintaining visual and wildlife benefits.

understand the forest.

Let’s look at northern red oak as an example. Red oak needs abundant sunlight and grows on a variety of sites, but only competes well against other tree species on sandy/gravelly soils. Oak forests have evolved with fire, like many tree species have. One challenge of regenerating oak forests today is that humans have been suppressing forest fires for the last 100 years. In order to regenerate oak forests, there must be a disturbance that mimics the life history

of oaks to provide just the right amount of sunlight and prepare the seedbed to let the oak trees have an advantage over the competition. This is where silviculture comes in. Silviculture is the art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health, and quality of forest and woodlands to meet the diverse needs and values of landowners and society on a sustainable basis. The most common silvicultural system used to regenerate an oak forest is called a

See FORESTER. . . page 34

Cedric A. Vig Outdoor Classroom (CAVOC)
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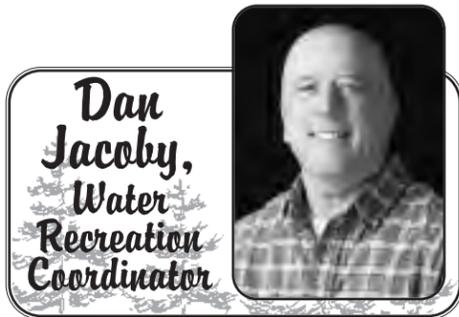
Our Mission at CAVOC is to provide hands-on, outdoor learning experiences that help students acquire the awareness, knowledge, skills and commitment to become responsible stewards of their natural environment.

Autumns’ splendor

Dean Baker photograph

Autumn is a wonderful time to explore the NHAL State Forest. The Lost Canoe Lake carry-in landing exhibits Mother Nature’s magic.

Minimize your impact when camping remotely



can feel challenging to take care of your basic needs while taking care of the forest. There are, however, things you can do while camping to minimize your impact on the environment.

Food

Keep your food in coolers that latch. Never leave food out or take into your tent. Raccoons, black bear, and other animals that live nearby have an excellent sense of smell and will make a mess of your site and can be dangerous in close proximity. Try to pack with the thought of reducing the amount of trash to bring out. Do your dishes and bathing away from the shore and use biodegradable products. Do not throw food or trash into a wilderness latrine. Keep your camping card, and use a NHAL State Forest campground dumpster or take trash home.

Shelter

Resist the urge to go back further into the wilderness to set your tent. The new area you claim may not be inspected for hazards. Tents will smother all vegetation, some of which could be rare. Use the tent pad which should be obvious as it is close to the table and a level area.

See IMPACT. . . page 39



Chopping into live trees will weaken the tree and lead to disease and death.



Disturbing the soil of your campsite can lead to soil erosion and invasive species.

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Carry in – carry out

Welcome to your state forest! You'll notice at the picnic areas, shelters, beaches, and other day

use areas that there are no garbage or recycling bins. When you visit many Wisconsin state forests,

parks and recreation areas, you need to take your garbage and recyclables home with you.

Why?

Home away from home: The forests belong to all of us, and just like home, we need to care for them and keep them clean.

Less mess: Removal of the garbage and recycling containers eliminates the

smells and mess they create. It also cuts down on yellow jackets and other pests.

Reduce, reuse, recycle: Wisconsin state law requires us to recycle many materials we once threw away. Better yet, we can make new choices of



what to bring with use. The more reusable things we pack, the less garbage we'll create.

It's good for us and for our earth home.

Thanks for helping out by carrying out what you've carried in.

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 Sept. 5 Northwoods BAD-DASH Mud Run
 Oct. 3 Cran-A-Rama

Ongoing Events
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 Mondays - June 8 to Aug. 24 Lions Bingo
 Thursdays - June 4 to Aug 27 Lions Flea, Craft & Farmer's Market
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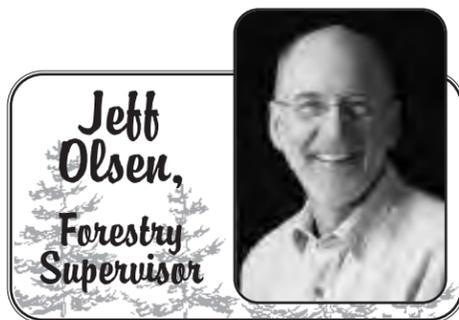
XC Skiing the NHAL

Come join us in the winter for skiing and snowshoeing NHAL State Forest trails. In addition to the summer and fall months, many visitors enjoy year-round recreation on NHAL trails. Consider checking us out during our winter months. The snow season often arrives in November and stays with us until spring thaw in April. When enough snow falls, we groom the ski trails to offer great Nordic skiing in our beautiful Northwoods.

NHAL has a long history of cross country ski trails that have supplied generations of XC skiers with a choice of trails to recreate, exercise and take in the quiet beauty on our State Forest. I remember skiing some of these trails in the 1970s and still ski them today. Many trails were groomed for classic skiing only in the past, but now there are skating trails groomed for the freestyle skier to enjoy also. In addition, more snowshoe trails depart from the same XC trailheads. Snowshoe trails are pet friendly for those looking to have their furry companions out with them, but pets are not allowed on ski trails that are groomed by the state forest.

My 'roots' began in 1972 with my old wood skis, bamboo poles, three-pin leather boots and breaking the trail wherever the desire to explore took me.

I have skied most all of these trails over the years. I have tried to ski as many of them as I can each year but return to my favorites more than once every season. With the option to classic ski or skate ski, there is so much variety in terrain and skill level on the many miles of trails. Myself, I prefer to classic ski. Striding in the tracks has always just



felt better to me. I suggest you try them all too or just stick to the trails that suit your tastes.

To help you sort out the range of difficulty of all these trails, I offer you a brief description of the NHAL groomed trails in the forest.

For the beginner or someone looking for a short trail loop to enjoy, I suggest the Madeline Lake Trail (classic) and the McNaughton Lake Trail (both classic and skating) systems. They both include loops of varying lengths. Both trails are relatively flat with some rolling hills. Madeline trail does have one very steep hill where it is recommended that the novice skier remove their skis and walk down the side of the trail to the bottom of the hill, unless they're feeling adventurous and need more risk in their lives compared to cozy, city-dwelling existence. Powell trail is also flat and good for beginners. If you would like to give cross country skiing a try, many local businesses offer ski rentals.

Raven Trail has a few short loops that are pretty level and an expert loop that is challenging for the skilled skier. The Escanaba Lake Trail has longer loop trails that are advanced rated trails.

Many hills and turns require experienced skiing techniques.

The groomed NHAL State Forest Trails offer three-walled warming shelters along the trails, each with a fire pit supplied with dry kindling. Bring a backpack filled with snacks and your favorite warm beverages on your ski adventure and stop by a shelter to warm yourself by the camp fire.

It's a great experience to make memories that will be sure to last a lifetime.

The other groomed trails on the State Forest are run by different/independent organizations. These trails are open to the public and maintained by dedicated volunteers. There is no charge but they do ask for donations. Be sure to give generously. Razorback Ridges and the North Lakeland School (NLES) trails both have heated shelters with electric and water. The shelters are a great place to relax and socialize with fellow skiers.

Where ever you choose to ski remember to clean up after yourself to help keep the forest beautiful. Be mindful of other users of the forest and keep it clean for everyone to enjoy.

As the NHAL Forestry Supervisor, I would like to point out that forest goals are established to manage for a variety of social, economic and ecological benefits. You will notice that all of the trails you ski, hike, or bike have been managed in the past. The NHAL forestry management plan considers aesthetics in all areas with trails. The XC ski trails travel through a variety of forest types and ages. Personally, I enjoy the big pines and the areas of oaks and aspen. I am sure you will find many to your liking.

As you read this visitor's guide publication, I suggest you lace up your hiking boots or pump up the tires on the mountain bike and explore the trails on dry ground. Most trails are signed for hiking and biking. The views will change with the leaves out and the wildlife and bird populations that shift with the seasons. It will add so much more to your winter experience to get to know an area of the state forest with a different perspective. Many have found that it enriches their experience to explore a trail or lake over and over again. We are fortunate to have access to so many beautiful public spaces that can be enjoyed all year long. I encourage you to get out and find a new favorite trail.

The latest grooming report and trail conditions are posted on the skinnyski website or trail report hotline. Ski Trail Report: 715-385-3355 ext. 121

www.skinnyski.com

Maps of many of these trails in the list can be found in the Visitors Guide. The others can be found on the NHAL State Forest Recreation and Facilities Map and on the Vilas County Silent Sports map.

NHAL Groomed XC Trails

Raven Trail
Madeline Lake Trail
Escanaba Lake Trail
McNaughton Lake Trail

NHAL ungroomed XC Trails

Lumberjack Trail
Powell Trail
Shannon Lake Trail
Van Vliet Hemlocks Trails
Other Groomed XC Trails
Boulder Junction Winter Park Trails (Boulder Junction)
Camp Manitowish Trails (Boulder Junction)
Fort Wilderness Trails (Newbold)
North Lakeland Trails (Manitowish Waters)
Razorback Ridges Trails (Sayner)
Schlecht Lake Trails (Scattered State Lands, Minocqua)
Statehouse Trail (Manitowish Waters)
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FUN FACT #8

By Kimberly Krawczyk

CRYSTAL LAKE RANGER
STATION MANAGER

Eastern Hemlock Stands. Eastern hemlock, also called Canada hemlock or hemlock spruce, is a slow-growing long-lived tree which unlike many trees grows well in shade. It may take 250 to 300 years to reach maturity and may live for 800 years or more. Hemlock bark was once the source of tannin for the leather industry; now the wood is important to the pulp and paper industry. Dense stands of eastern hemlock develop microclimates because of their dense canopy, dense shading, deep duff layer, and retention of moisture and uniformly low temperatures. The canopy can be so dense that an understory is unable to develop, giving the stand a mystical feeling. Despite the high production of pinecones by individual trees, the viability of eastern hemlock seed is usually low. Sometimes hemlock regeneration is restricted to rotten logs (called nurse logs), stumps, and mounds that normally have warmer surfaces and better moisture retention than the forest floor. Hemlock stands are considered important as cover for ruffed grouse, turkeys, and many other animals. Rich in biodiversity, hemlock forests are also habitat for more than 120 different species, including: pine marten, fisher, bobcat, snowshoe hare, red squirrel, porcupine, pileated wood pecker, yellow-bellied sapsucker, goldfinches, crossbills and grosbeaks.

Small stands of Hemlock can be found on both the Fallison and Raven Nature Trails, but one of the largest stands of Hemlock on the forest is the Plum Lake Hemlock Forest (State Natural Area # No. 26). Plum Lake Hemlock Forest is a near virgin stand of old-growth on rolling topography between Star Lake and Plum Lake. Canopy trees include hemlock, yellow birch, sugar maple, basswood, and paper birch. The presence of large white birch suggests a fire origin with the stand originating around 1810 and succeeding from aspen to pine to hemlock. To get there, from the north junction of State Highway 155 and County Highway N in Sayner, go west on N 2.1 miles, then north 4.2 miles on Razorback Road, then east 1 mile on Rearing Pond Road, then south at the T intersection 0.5 mile to the western boundary. Park along the road and walk southeast into the site. To access the eastern portion, from the south junction of 155 and N in Sayner, go east and north on N 4.8 miles, then southwest on Trumper's Trail (Hook Lake Road) 0.8 miles to a parking area.



Joe Fieweger photograph

The Escanaba ski trail provides breathtaking scenery through the NHAL.

Jeff Olsen



Forestry Dept. Update

For more than 100 years, the foresters at Trout Lake Forestry Headquarters have been involved in shaping the environment, the forest aesthetics and ecology of the northwoods. The state forest program contributes to the economy of the area with jobs on the Forest and contract forestry work. The benefits to society are seen in the recreation throughout the lands and waters of the NHAL State Forest. We are proud to be a part of the Wisconsin State Forest system.

1911 saw the first seeds of a new forest planted at the Trout Lake nursery where the forestry and maintenance buildings are located today. You can see some of these pine trees today at the Star Lake Nature Trail. Currently we have 7 forester positions, several limited term employees, and a supervisor to look after an active management program. For example, many pine trees are planted each spring, timber management plans developed and set up; contract for services are administered, close monitoring and suppression of small wildfires and inventory of each timber stand on the forest is recorded every 20 years. We sell thousands of cords of firewood permits, Christmas tree permits along with bough and bark gathering permits. It's a very busy year-round organization to run. Check us out at, <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/StateForests/nhal/>

Forest Management

Wisconsin DNR lands are managed for multiple-use objectives as the 2005



NHAL Master Plan specifies. Along with non-timber objectives, the DNR lands are used to demonstrate various forest practices to the public, while meeting a variety of habitat objectives. Resource managers within the Department of Natural Resources use these objectives to manage each state forest as a healthy ecosystem. Each year, about 2 percent of the forest of the NHAL State Forest, DNR ownership is actively managed.

There are also many stands of forest that are designated as passive management. This means no active management takes place on these stands to provide foresters with examples of natural process effects to older forest areas. Many of these stands are great areas for the public to hike and view the Northwoods as it existed undisturbed in the past. Forest managers also leave patches and individual trees that are legacies of the past forest in active management zones. These trees serve as seed sources and habitat that is rare in most of Wisconsin's landscape.

Of the area in active harvest more

than 70 percent of the management prescriptions are selective, which reduce the density of stems to accelerate growth of the remaining trees and vertical structural diversity within the stand harvested. Approximately 30 percent of the stands actively managed each year are harvested using regeneration techniques. After harvest these forests are either replanted or regenerate naturally and will continue to grow and produce forest habitats and wood products for future generations. Regenerating forests also provide important habitats for species associated with young forests such as ruffed grouse, snowshoe hare and woodcock.

Harvested stands are either regenerated naturally or are planted with seedlings. The determination of which method to use is based on the ability of the site to regenerate naturally and the ability of the desired species to regenerate on a particular site. For example, if a site experiences hot and dry conditions planting may be the best alternative. This is most common for the pine species, especially jack pine.

Even-aged and uneven-aged management schemes are the harvest systems employed on Wisconsin DNR's land. Even-aged management includes clearcuts with reserves, seed tree methods, shelterwood cuttings, and intermediate thinnings. Uneven-aged management includes both individual and group selection techniques. Each of these systems and techniques are designed in conjunction with a particu-

lar tree species or community of trees. For example, uneven-aged single tree and group selection techniques are used in northern hardwoods, hemlock-hardwood, and swamp hardwood stands. In contrast, even-aged clearcuts are used in pine (red, white, and jack), paper birch, aspen, oak, northern hardwoods, scrub oak, aspen, fir-spruce, and black spruce stands. The selection of a management system and specific technique depends on many factors, including tree composition, age of the stand, location, accessibility, and most importantly the long-term objectives for the stand under consideration.

Adapted from DNR Forestry Website

Strong cooperation

NHAL develops its programs to promote the conservation of native biological diversity, including species, wildlife habitats and ecological or natural community types, at stand and landscape levels. Strong cooperation among the Division of Forestry and the Bureaus of Endangered Resources and Wildlife Management has led to an exceptional program for the conservation of native biological diversity. The program clearly exceeds the standard in protections afforded rare, threatened or endangered species or communities.

It all comes down to a healthy State forest that is managed well and is certified to prove it meets strict National and International standards. Please enjoy your visit to our forest. We are very proud of it!

Campers, we need your help protecting the trees!

By Kimberly Miller
WI DNR

There is nothing quite like spending an evening away from home at one of NHAL's hundreds of campsites. Whether you seek the solitude of one of the primitive camping sites or the convenience of the modern sites, we need your help making sure they stay safe and beautiful for years to come.

You may be asking how? Well, the trees in and surrounding our camping sites play a big part in helping to create an environment that keeps people coming back. However, simple acts during your stay that seem innocent can have a lasting and detrimental effect to our trees. You can help by considering before – not after it is too late – the damage that can result from these common actions:

Ax and knife wounds are the most common type of injury. Tree wounds are

not only unsightly, they frequently do not heal. Wood that is exposed when bark is injured or removed is attacked by decay, fungi and insects. Larger wounds then develop, and the tree may become unsafe.

Unknowingly, many people harm trees by hanging lanterns on them. Heat from the lanterns kills the adjacent bark and cambial tissue under the bark. This inhibits the tree's ability to take up water and nutrients.

Attaching any kind of rope/wire to a tree (such as a clothesline) and leaving it there will eventually kill the tree. These materials girdle trees, leading to a slow death.

Be careful not to hit trees while backing in; neither the trees nor the vehicle were built for it.

Please only park in designated areas. Overuse of areas around camping sites that are not suitable for heavy foot traffic or vehicles will severely compact and

erode the soil. As a result, roots suffer from exposure above ground and a lack of water and air below ground. This can ultimately be the demise of the trees.

Breaking firewood across a tree trunk can bruise and kill the bark and cambial tissue underneath. This also inhibits the trees ability to take up water and nutrients.

Trees need their skin, too! Even though trees regularly discard old bark, premature removal will kill them.

YOU CAN HELP!

- Cut firewood on a chopping block rather than a tree trunk or exposed roots.
 - Set lanterns on a table or on the ground.
 - Remove all wires and ropes when you leave the camp site.
 - Take care not to injure trees while maneuvering vehicles and campers.
 - Avoid exposed roots where possible. Park and ride motor vehicles only on authorized roads and trails.
 - Do not remove bark – even loose bark – from trees.
 - Do not chain pets to the base of trees. The leash saws through the bark as the animal moves about.
 - Do not drive nails and other objects into trees. This provides a place for harmful insects and decay fungi to enter.
- By observing some of these basic rules, you will be helping us to maintain the health of our trees. However, keep in mind that many of these same ideas can



FUN FACT #9

By KIMBERLY KRAWCZYK
CRYSTAL LAKE RANGER
STATION MANAGER

Tamarack. The American Tamarack tree has been known by many local names over the centuries amongst native peoples and outdoorsmen. Some of these names include Eastern Larch, American Larch, Red Larch, Black Larch, Takmahak, and Hackmatack. Though the tamarack tree resembles other evergreens, it is actually a deciduous conifer, meaning that it sheds its needles every fall. It commonly grows in swamps and sphagnum bogs but also grows in upland soils. Very often you will see the tall tamarack trees growing in pure stands. Just before the needles drop in autumn, the needles turn an ethereal golden color. In the spring, the small cones are a deep reddish-purple color.

The Chippewa (or Ojibway/Ojibwe) word for tamarack is 'muckigwatig' meaning 'swamp tree'. The bark of the tree was used to help heal burns. Tamarack used for internal medicine was said to be a laxative, tonic, diuretic and alterative.

The Potawatomi and Menominee made a heat-generating poultice from fresh inner tamarack bark for inflammation and wounds, or steeped for a medicinal tea. They also used it as a medicine for their horses, either as a tea to help Menominee horses with distemper. The Ojibwe also used tamarack roots to make twined woven bags. These roots were stripped of their bark and boiled to make them pliable. The bags were used to store medicinal herbs and roots as well as wild rice. Large tamarack roots stripped of their bark were also used to sew the edges of canoes.



Studying our Woods and Waters

UW-Madison field stations have long history in the NHAL

By **Tim Kratz**

UW Center for Limnology
Trout Lake Station

Tom Steele

UW Kemp Natural Resources Station

Welcome to the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest! We know you are here to enjoy the woods and waters of a truly beautiful and remarkable place. A place that, every year, tens of thousands of people use as both a playground and a “home away from home.” But did you know that this amazing landscape is also a living laboratory?

For 90 years, the Northwoods has been a hub of scientific research on lakes, forests, streams, and wetlands. The University of Wisconsin-Madison’s two field stations – the Trout Lake Station (limnology.wisc.edu), founded in 1924, and the Kemp Natural Resources Station (kemp.wisc.edu), founded in 1960 – have been in the middle of most of that activity. Pioneering lake scientists Edward Birge and Chancey Juday were attracted to the area in the 1920s by the abundance of lakes. By the start of World War II, they and their colleagues had laid the foundation for the science of limnology – the study of inland waters. In the forests, researchers such as Theodore Kozlowski and Sergei Wilde examined the relationships between trees and soils and forest insects and disease. Their discoveries, made more than 50 years ago, still inform and guide modern forest management.

Today, this robust tradition of research continues. This summer, approximately 50 scientists, from faculty, to post-doctoral researchers, to brand-new undergraduate students, will be out in the field, trying to decipher the mysteries of how and why lakes, forests, and wildlife are changing, and how this new understanding can lead to better, science-based management.

The first steps in adapting to a changing environment are to understand what is changing, how fast it is changing, and what is causing the change. At the Trout Lake Station, the North Temperate Lakes Long-Term Ecological Research project is an ongoing effort to answer these questions. For almost 30 years, UW scientists have been studying seven lakes and the surrounding landscape in the NHAL forest: Trout, Sparkling, Big Muskegon, Allequash, and Crystal Lakes, as well as two small bog lakes dubbed Trout Bog

and Crystal Bog. Crews visit each lake every two weeks during the open-water season to make a series of physical, chemical, and biological measurements. Those measurements show that, over the past 30 years, the lakes have been getting warmer, water levels have cycled through high and low periods, and invasive species have altered biological communities. These long-term observations are fundamental to understanding change, which often acts too slowly to be seen in more common short-term studies.

At Kemp, a diverse group of scientists studies our terrestrial, or land-based, resources. They work at scales ranging from the microscopic to entire landscapes. Subjects vary from the biology of ticks and Lyme disease, to the use of satellites to monitor forest change. Regardless of the focus, all studies share the same goal – to better understand the world around us. It is this knowledge that informs responsible stewardship of our precious natural resources.

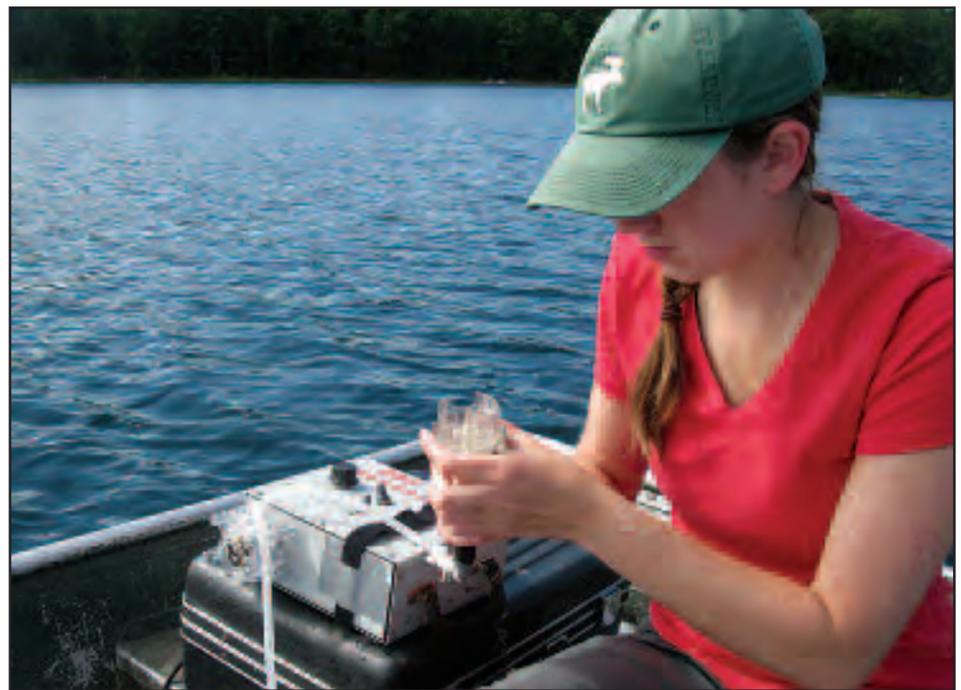
In addition to research, both Kemp and Trout Lake Stations function as unique and important outdoor classrooms. While students obtain an outstanding education on campus, there are some lessons you just can’t learn indoors. It is through direct, hands-on experiences at field stations that classroom theory comes alive. Students are immersed (often quite literally!) in their studies. Not only do they get a first-hand look at natural systems, they learn how to think critically about important environmental issues.

Scientists at the UW Kemp and Trout Lake Stations are also eager to share what they have learned with you. And they are keen to hear the observations and insights of the public, many of whom have been living in or visiting the NHAL area for decades. The Stations jointly host the popular “Science on Tap” science café series, which meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at the Minocqua Brewing Company. The sessions are live-streamed and archived so you don’t have to be present to participate. More information is available at www.scienceontapminocqua.org. Kemp Station conducts an active summer outreach series where participants interact with scientists and learn about ongoing research in the area. For a list of outreach program topics and dates, visit <http://kemp.wisc.edu/outreach/events/>. In addition, the Trout Lake Station invites you to their open house on Friday, July 31, 2015. There will be tours, demonstrations and pontoon boat rides. The Trout Lake Station is located on County Hwy N,



Meredith Smalley photograph

UW-Madison professor Anna Pidgeon and undergraduate student Cody Lane are studying the relationship between lakes and songbirds.



Meredith Smalley photograph

Undergraduate student Ellen Albright takes a water chemistry sample from Trout Lake as part of the North Temperate Lakes Long-Term Ecological Research program. Data are used to understand whether, how and why the lakes are changing.

between Highways M and 51. For more information on Station activities call 715-356-9494 or send an email to tls@limnology.wisc.edu.

Collectively, the Trout Lake and Kemp Natural Resources Stations have been studying the Northwoods for almost a century. They were established with a simple goal: to create and disseminate knowledge about our natural world. Today, that mission is more important than ever. As society places increasing demands on the environment, we must look to science to provide innovative answers regarding sus-

tainable resource use – ensuring that the Northwoods continues to be both a world-class classroom and playground for us all.

PROTECT

From page 30

be transferred to your own yard to protect your trees at home. In addition to what was mentioned above, these are also common injuries to yard trees:

Mowers, weed whips, and other trimming equipment often wound trees by cutting through important vascular tissue. This leads to decay and potential death.

Make sure when planting a new tree that it is done properly. Some common mistakes are planting the tree too deep, and not removing the ties, burlap and tags.

When pruning your trees, make sure that it is done properly and for the right

reasons. Improper pruning provides a place for harmful insects and decay fungi to enter.

Moisture is critical to trees. Make sure to provide proper amounts of water to your trees, especially trees planted in the last 2 to 3 years.

Mulch your trees, but do not go overboard. Properly applied mulch will increase growth rates, prevent basal damage, and conserve soil moisture.

For more information on proper care of your trees, visit www.treesaregood.org.

Remember that all injuries are not immediately apparent and may take years to manifest into something more serious. The more injuries we can prevent, the fewer trees will need to be removed. A loss of trees not only diminishes the enjoyment of the camping sites

and your yards, removing and replacing them is costly.



FUN FACT #10
BY **KIMBERLY KRAWCZYK**
CRYSTAL LAKE RANGER
STATION MANAGER

Rustic Road. According to WI State Statue 83.42 the purpose of a rustic road is “...to create and preserve rustic and scenic roads for vehicular, bicycle, electric personal assistive mobility device, and pedestrian travel in unhurried, quiet and leisurely enjoyment; to protect and preserve recreational driving, culture, beauty, trees, vegetation and wildlife. There is one rustic road designated within the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest. Rustic Road 60 follows the eastern portion of County Highway K in Vilas County between County Highway N and County Highway M. Rustic Road 60 is a little less than 12 miles long. The topography is mostly level to gently rolling. Canopies of coniferous and hardwood trees enhance the scenic beauty of R-60 as it passes near old logging camp sites, hiking trails and an old saw mill located near the town of Star Lake. The entire stretch of this scenic drive traverses heavily wooded areas abundant with wildlife. R-60 offers frequent scenic vistas of numerous, clear Northwoods lakes and dense forestland.



Water Resources of the Forest

The Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest is located within the most abundant and closely concentrated surface water resource region in Wisconsin. More than 900 lakes lie within the forest boundaries. These waters range from numerous unnamed lakes of less than 10 surface acres to the nearly 4,000 acres comprising Trout Lake. Numerous streams and rivers create a network of "roads" between the lakes.

Major recreational users of these water resources include anglers, swimmers, skiers, boaters, canoeists and sightseers. These activities generate a tourist-oriented recreational industry within and surrounding the forest – an industry which has significant economic

importance to the area.

A generalized listing of the sport fishery includes muskellunge, northern pike, walleye, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass and the commonly classified panfish species; bluegills, perch, crappies, pumpkinseed and bullheads. Cold water species include brook, brown and rainbow trout.

Other unique species that contribute to the sport fishery are sturgeon in the Manitowish River system, lake trout and whitefish in Trout Lake, and cisco, which are more commonly associated with the larger, deeper lakes.

With the diversity of fish species present, all types of angler interest can be satisfied. Whether your preference is to pitch a bucktail over a weed bed in hopes of catching a muskie, fishing a jig and minnow on a rock bar for walleye, slipping a canoe into a spring fed pond in the hopes of getting a fat brook trout, or just flipping a worm near a fallen tree for panfish, the opportunity exists within the state forest.



Staff photograph

The water resources of the NHAL are abundant and offer many recreational opportunities.

FUN FACT #11

By **KIMBERLY KRAWCZYK**

CRYSTAL LAKE RANGER
STATION MANAGER

Kettle Lakes - As mentioned earlier, the Northern Highlands Region has one of the highest concentrations of kettle lakes in the world. Lakes cover over 12 percent of the surface of the NHAL State Forest. Lakes can be classified by their hydrology into four main groups. Each provides different aquatic habitats.

Drainage lakes - These lakes have both an inlet and outlet where the main water source is stream drainage. Most major rivers in Wisconsin have drainage lakes along their course. Drainage lakes owing one-half of their maximum depth to a dam are considered to be artificial lakes. (Examples of drainage lakes on the NHAL are: Allequash, Big, Carrol, Plum, Star, Trout and Upper Gresham).

Seepage lakes - These lakes do not have an inlet or an outlet, and only occasionally overflow. As landlocked water bodies, the principal source of water is precipitation or runoff, supplemented by groundwater from the immediate drainage area. Since seepage lakes commonly reflect groundwater levels and rainfall patterns, water levels may fluctuate seasonally. Seepage lakes are the most common lake type in Wisconsin. (Buffalo, Clear, Crystal, Fallison, Firefly, Jag, Muskellunge, Razorback and Starrett).

Spring lakes - These lakes have no inlet, but do have an outlet. The primary source of water for spring lakes is groundwater flowing into the bottom of the lake from inside and outside the immediate surface drainage area. Spring lakes are the headwaters of many streams and are a fairly common type of lake in northern Wisconsin. (Allequash Springs, Cunard, Little John)

Drained lakes - These lakes have no inlet, but like spring lakes, have a continuously flowing outlet. Drained lakes are not groundwater-fed. Their primary source of water is from precipitation and direct drainage from the surrounding land. Frequently, the water levels in drained lakes will fluctuate depending on the supply of water. Under severe conditions, the outlets from drained lakes may become intermittent. Drained lakes are the least common lake type found in Wisconsin. (Sandy Beach Lake).

The water quality of a lake and species of fish present are significantly influenced by the lake type. For example, drainage lakes support fish populations which are not necessarily identical to the streams connected to them. Drainage lakes usually have higher nutrient levels than many natural seepage or spring lakes. In contrast to drainage lakes, landlocked seepage lakes are not influenced by streams. Consequently, seepage lakes frequently have a less diverse fishery.

CANOE

From page 21

campsites on the property. Make sure you are planning for the type of site that will meet your needs for length of stay and type of water craft (motorized/non-motorized/electric motor only) that you will use on your trip.

The majority of our water access campsites are designated as canoe campsites. These sites (indicated by a white triangle on the Canoe Route Map) are available free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis. In order to allow access to as many people as possible, and to ensure that all visitors can travel along the entire water trail route, visitors to these sites are allowed to stay one night only.

The forest also offers 17 remote reservable campsites (indicated by black triangles on the map). Visitors to these sites can stay up to 14 nights. To reserve these sites, visitors should contact Reserve America at 1-888-947-2757 or visit their website at <http://wisconsin-stateparks.reserveamerica.com/>. Remote reservable campsites are numbered in the 600s on Reserve America and have a numbered post at the campsite. When

arriving for your trip, you will need to check in to your site at the ranger station listed on your reservation confirmation.

If you are unsure about canoe camping you could try a walk-in site at one of our family campgrounds to see if you enjoy a bit more rustic type of camping. If you enjoy the walk-in sites you may like the quiet and solitude of canoe sites along the lakes and rivers.

The canoe routes on the NHAL are designed for intermediate level paddlers and those who have some experience canoe camping. Safety on the water needs to be your first priority. Life vests should be worn at all times and paddlers should be certain of their skill level relative to the water body and weather conditions. Please familiarize yourself with boating rules and regulations before venturing onto the water.

Items to include on your trip would be a compass, waterproof matches, drinking water or a water filter. A lake contour map will help you to avoid rock bars and may be helpful if fishing.

To ensure a positive experience for yourself and other visitors it is suggested that you adhere to the following best practices.

Be mindful of the level of noise in your campsite. Music and voices travel easily across water and what may seem like harmless fun can disturb fellow visitors and wildlife.

Do not cause damage to the vegetation, trees, or soil of your campsite.

To prevent the infiltration of chemicals to the lakes and rivers, bathe and wash dishes with biodegradable soap away from the water.

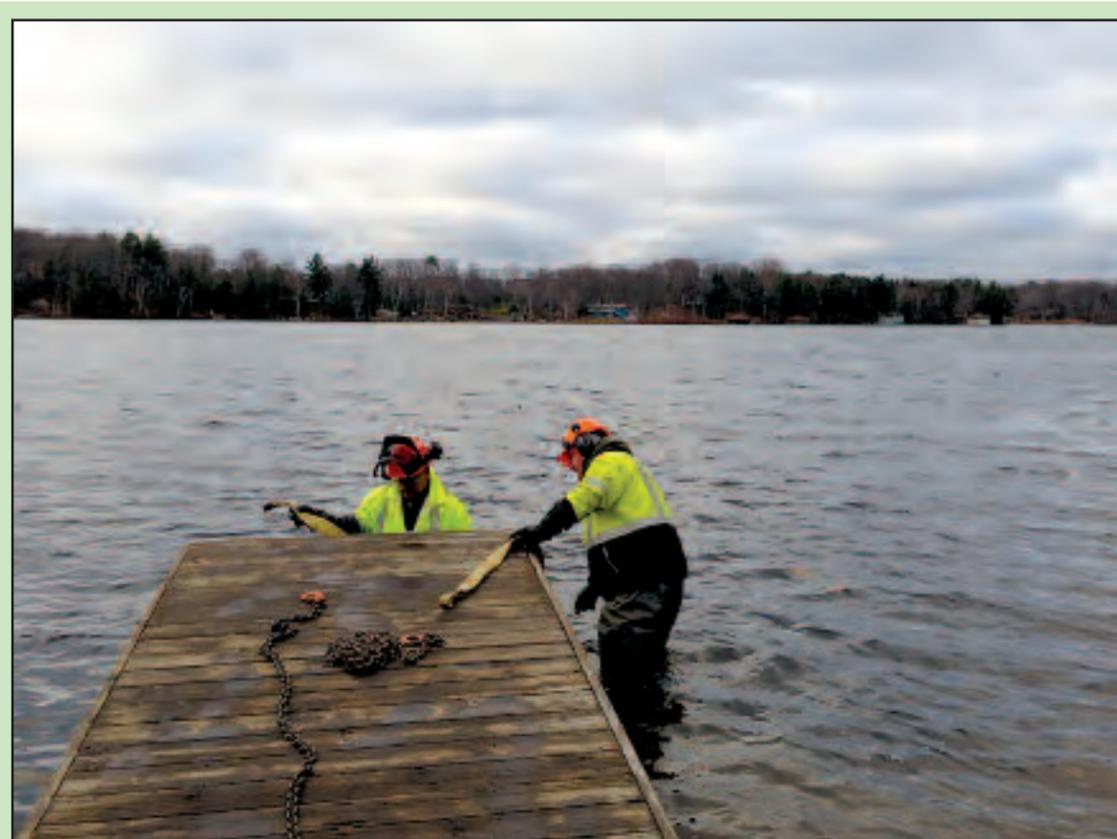
Pack with the goal of reducing waste and remove all trash from your campsite. (Never burn cans, bottles or other trash and do not dump trash into the latrine)

While a latrine is provided at your campsite, no paper products are provided. Please bring your own.

While many fire rings have a cooking grate, these are often easily damaged. To ensure you have an adequate cooking surface, please bring a steel cooking grate.

We appreciate you visiting the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest and welcome you to try our Water Trails.

Dan Jacoby can be contacted at 715-614-5115 or dan.jacoby@wisconsin.gov to answer questions you may have about water trails.



What do we do in the off-season?

Two NHAL employees brave the wind, sleet, and cold in late October to remove a boat dock on Lake Tomahawk.

Melissa Baker photograph

Kids, become a Wisconsin Explorer!

Are you good at discovering secrets? There are many waiting for you at your favorite state park, forest, trail, or recreation area. Just stop by the nature center or contact station and pick up a Wisconsin Explorer booklet. Inside, you will find nature activities, scavenger hunts, games, hikes, and crafts that will help you and your family explore Wisconsin's natural resources.

Complete the requirements listed in the booklet, and you'll earn a collectable state symbol patch. For 2015, the patches are:

- American robin (ages 3-5)
- Muskie (ages 6-8)
- Wood violet (ages 9+)

For more information, ask park staff or visit www.wiparks.net and search for "Wisconsin Explorer."

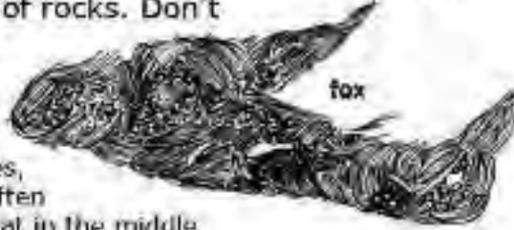


Get the scoop on poop

If you eat, you've got to poop! Look for animal scat (droppings) in the middle of trails, at the bases of trees, on fallen logs, and on top of rocks. Don't touch scat!

Canines

Foxes, coyotes, and wolves often leave their scat in the middle of trails. Look for fur, feathers, and bones in their droppings. Canine scat often ends with a tapered twist like an ice cream cone. Yum!



deer



rabbit

Herbivores

Animals that eat mostly plants leave piles of pellet-shaped scat.



mouse

Omnivores

Raccoons, opossums, and bears leave droppings that look different depending on what they've eaten recently. Sometimes their scat is loaded with berry seeds; sometimes it contains fur.



raccoon



goose

Caterpillars

Small droppings falling from trees and other plants are probably from caterpillars. Caterpillar scat is called frass.



Draw the scat clues you found



Birds and reptiles

If you see scat that has white tips or white smears, you have found bird or reptile droppings. The white stuff is a form of urine. Birds and reptiles poop and pee from the same opening.

mourning dove

Kids!

Make tracks to the nearest contact station or nature center and get ready to discover some secrets!

Ask for a *Wisconsin Explorers* book. Open the book and start exploring insects, birds, the moon, and all kinds of things! If you complete the requirements, you can earn a colorful patch.

Booklets are available for three ages (3-5, 6-8, and 9+). Get out there and start *Discovering Secrets* together!

DRAW BETTER TREES

If your trees look like lollipops, try some of these tree drawing hints.



Start in the middle of the trunk. Draw down to the ground and up to the sky. Then sketch the large branches.

Don't draw each leaf—just give the impression of leaves.

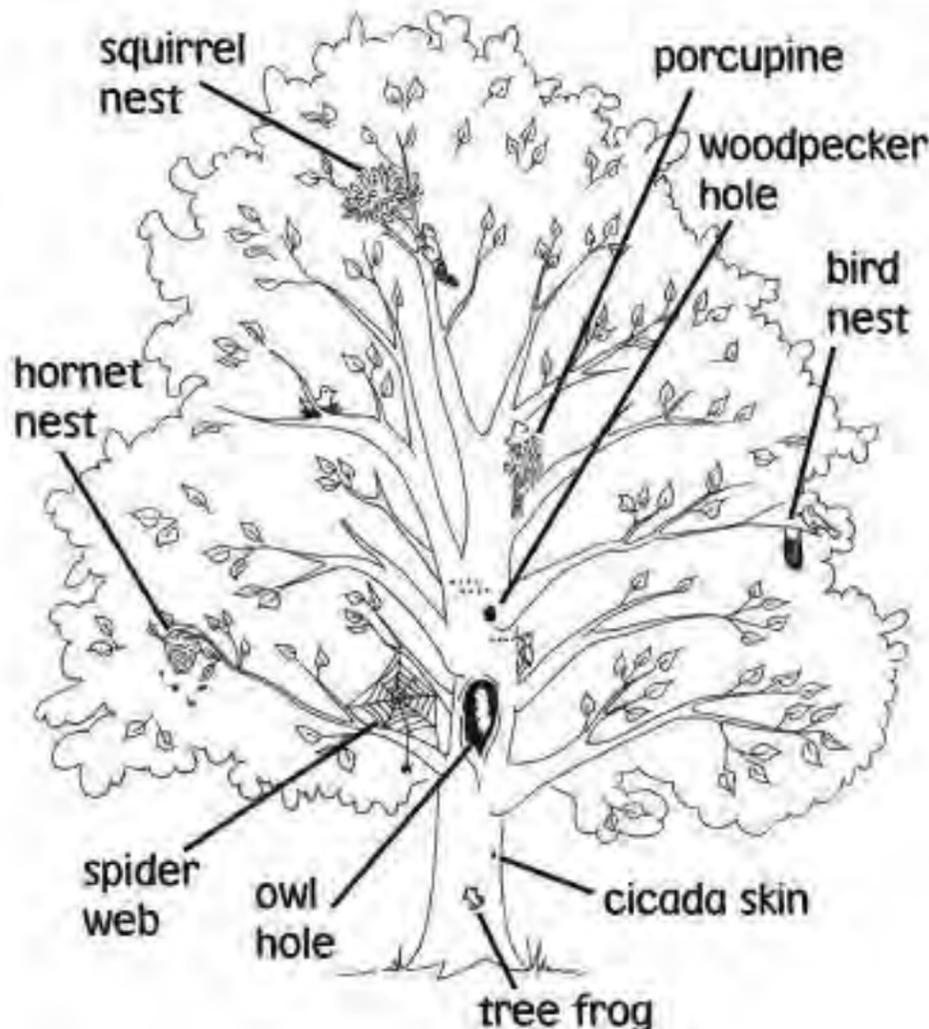


Trees are 3-D. That means some of the branches need to look like they are in front of or behind other branches.

The farther from the trunk a branch is, the thinner it should be.

Look for animals hiding in trees

When you first look at a tree, you might not see any animals. Look for clues on the ground around your tree, up in the branches, on the bark, and in the leaves. Circle the clues you see. Add other animals that you find.



Kids! Solve a mystery today!



Ask for a *Wisconsin Explorers* booklet. Inside, you'll find nature activities, scavenger hunts, games, hikes, and crafts that will help you and your family explore this place!

Complete the requirements in the booklet, and you'll earn a collectable state symbol patch!





Dear Steve. . . .

Dear Steve,

Why are there so many people walking and running on the paved bike trails. Don't they know it's for bicycles?

Sincerely,
Rollin' with my Homies

Dear Rollin'

The paved bike trails are open for multiple uses (bicycling, walking, running, roller skating). All visitors should practice proper etiquette while using the trails including staying to the right of the trail, allowing plenty of room for oncoming bicyclists, and announcing your presence if you are passing someone from behind. Simply saying, "On your left" before passing will let the people in front of you know that you are there and allow them to move to the right to let you through.

Dear Steve,

Why do so many of the boat landings have huge deep spots followed by shallow spots. This makes it very difficult for me to put my boat in and out of the lake.

Sincerely,
Without a Paddle

Dear Without,

What you are describing is damage

caused by recreationists when they power load their boats. Power loading is when a boater "guns" their motor while loading their boat onto their trailer. When this happens, the increased water flow from the propeller blows out the soil at the base of the boat ramp creating a drop off at the end of the landing. That soil is then deposited further down the landing creating a raised, shallow area. The best way to prevent this from happening is to trim up your motor if you power load or, better yet, to coast your boat onto your trailer.

Dear Steve,

Last summer I brought my new fifth-wheel to Crystal and a low hanging branch hit the air conditioner. I fixed it but it sure stung and I hope you'll consider doing some pruning over the roads.

Sincerely,
Hi 5'er

Dear 5'er

I heard about that. Last fall we spent considerable time pruning the overhead branches on our roads and hope that you find it less risky to navigate our roads. Now that I'm personally pulling a lengthy trailer through our campgrounds

you can believe I'm even more aware of trees that crowd the edge or hang low. And I'm reminded that in the early 60s when a lot of our campgrounds were built there simply weren't RVs as big as they are now. So I'll do my best to maintain the clearance we can and ask that campers with big trailers be careful and let us know if we missed a branch that might be a problem.

Dear Steve,

Boy! You guys sure are busy in the summer with all the campers. You must really have it easy in the winter months when they are all gone. What do you do all winter?

Sincerely,
Living Easy Street

Dear Living,

I'm glad you asked. While our work is highly visible in the summer months when there are so many visitors around, our winter months are equally busy. In the spring and fall, our operations crew is preparing facilities for summer use and shutting facilities down for winter. This work begins in mid-April and continues through November. Most of our employees are seasonal staff and they begin leaving on Labor Day. In the win-



ter, we groom four trails for cross country skiing and plow roads and parking lots for visitor use. In addition, the winter months are also when we do most of our planning. Each year we have several development projects on the property. This year, we will be replacing many of our old toilet buildings with new, state of the art facilities. Projects like these must be planned years in advance. In addition, each year we produce this newspaper, create training for summer staff, order and organize supplies, and open/close our yearly financials. In many ways our winter months are busier than our summers as this is the time when all of the background work and preparation for summer must be done.

FORESTER

From page 23

shelterwood, which could be the subject of another article (or book).

After inventory and creating a management plan, I will set up a timber sale by designating which trees to harvest. I designate trees to harvest (or retain) using different paint marking schemes. You may have seen trees in the forest marked with different colors of paint. I exclude areas of trees to protect wetland and riparian areas, endangered and threatened plants and animals, or for aesthetics reasons. The sales are bid on and harvested only by independent contractors who are trained and certified in logging. A skeptic would say that tim-

ber sales are all about making money. While there is no doubt money involved, it is necessary to have markets in order to manage the forest in today's world. During active harvesting operations, I check on the loggers frequently much like anyone who hires a contractor would do. If you hired a contractor to work on your house, you would want to check on them once in a while to make sure things are going the way you wanted and according to a written contract.

A recently logged area may not look good at first but just because something doesn't look good does not mean it is necessarily bad for the environment. In fact, some things in the landscape that we think look nice are not actually good for the environment. Many fertilizers

and weed killers that are used to make our lawns beautiful are also responsible for changes in water quality and aquatic life.

In a forest, wildlife biologists and ecologists tell us that messy is good. Tree tops and branches (slash) left over from logging provide habitat for small animals and insects. The wood remaining on the site also acts as a fertilizer, slowly releasing nutrients back in to the soil. Foresters see the forest differently than most people. We see tree regeneration, we see habitat types and soil nutrient regimes, and we see tree species composition and forest types. We see not only what is there, but visualize what the forest will look like in the future. To quote F. G. Wilson, "Fortunately, foresters are trained to think in

terms of decades and century-long rotations, always aware that the quality of their work will be judged by those yet unborn."

I am a forester. I manage the forest. I inventory the forest, I set up timber sales with a focus on tree growth and regeneration, and I administer the process. Stewardship is the administration of land and associated resources in a manner that enables their passing on to future generations in a healthy condition. I see myself as a good steward of the land. Enjoy the forest. Walk through it and notice the different plants growing. Think about the products that come from it. Imagine what it will look like in the future.

(Definitions adapted from SAF Dictionary)

Winter tranquility



Dean Baker photograph

Many fishing opportunities exist beyond the summer season once the lakes become frozen.

Cotton grass



Dean Baker photograph

Cotton grass like this can be found in bogs or wetlands throughout The Northern Highland American Legion State Forest.



A family fishes on Carrol Lake on a late summer afternoon. This popular lake also has a campground and an accessible fishing pier.

Dean Baker photograph

Register your recreation vehicle online

By Linda Winters
WDNR

Fresh gas in the tank? Check! Life preservers on board? Check! Kids and dog loaded in the car and ready to head up north? Check! Boat decals good? Uh-oh!

Don't worry! GO GREEN and save time, energy, stamps, and paper with the convenient, secure and easy do-it-yourself on-line registration of your recreational vehicle. Go online and register your boat immediately, print out your

temporary operator's receipt, and get underway!

Online registration allows you to renew the registration of your boat, ATV, UTV and snowmobile you currently own. You can even transfer into your name a

recently purchased ATV, UTV, snowmobile or boat under 16 feet in length.

The system guides you through and calculates the fees for you. You can even submit multiple registration requests under one payment for a

tion fees.

After payment is submitted, you will be provided a Temporary Operating Receipt which makes you legal to use your recreational vehicle immediately. Just go to dnr.wi.gov and click on "register boat/ATV/snow." Decals and your certificate will arrive about a week after registering. Go Forest Green – provide your email address so DNR can alert you via email when your vehicles are about to expire.

Linda Winters is a Customer Service Training officer for the WDNR



single \$1 processing fee plus registra-



Goods from the Northwoods

Birch bark, burls, berries and boughs – these are just some “Goods from the Northwoods” or non-timber forest products (NTFPs) that are gathered and used for food, medicine, and crafts. Non-timber forest products have been important to the livelihood of the inhabitants of North America from prehistoric times to the present. As elsewhere in the world, early inhabitants of North America made extensive use of the vegetation that surrounded them. Archaeological evidence indicates, for example, that by 6,000 B.C. Native American residents of the Upper Great Lakes Basin relied heavily on plant foods gathered from the forest.

Learning how and what to gather is a process. Many gatherers in our area learned about plant uses from their families, which is especially true for plants that were commonly harvested during childhood — berries, fiddleheads, fir, and hazelnuts. I remember being sent out with my brothers and sisters to pick pails full of wild strawberries and raspberries. The job was not done until all of our buckets were full. This method of knowledge transfer was particularly significant for Native American NTFP gatherers who learn and teach about medicinal plants by speaking with elders and by participating in hands-on group gathering activities and ceremonies. Even today folks that want to learn more about harvesting can rely on books, including field guides and the Internet for additional information about

the use of forest products.

From the view of most forest managers, gathering is a harmless and interesting economic activity but certain regulations and restrictions, including where and how much harvested, do apply.

There are certain guidelines to follow when interested in gathering from the forest. Here are a few tips on harvesting:

- **Permits and guidelines.**

Before harvest, find out about policies, guidelines and permits. The State WDNR, Forest Service and Counties all have different policies on harvest so it's important to be aware of this. Permits allow the agency to monitor the demand and use of various products. Failure to have a permit may result in a fine.

- **Be careful where you step.** While harvesting, it is easy to damage a sensitive environment in a short amount of time. Plant populations can be destroyed by trampling. Certain soils are easily compacted, which affects root growth and plant health. While harvesting, try to minimize the number of trips you make to avoid unnecessary damage.

- **Know what you are picking.** Sometimes desirable plants and fungi have look-alikes and are difficult to identify. Proper identification can mean the difference between sinking your teeth into a

delicious edible morel and becoming sick from ingesting a false one. To help make positive identifications, carry a guidebook that describes plants and fungi found in your area.

At various times throughout the year, there are classes offered that teach about harvesting and use whether it's birch bark basket weaving to edible mushroom identification. Here are a few products that are harvested in the Northwoods and info on each.

Birch bark. The birch tree – wood, leaves, roots and sap – have proved to be useful to people throughout history. Yet it is the bark that stands out among the tree's many gifts. Birch bark can be collected from dead trees and on the ground and used for many decorative items. The bark can also be harvested on a live tree during mid-June to early July. Less than 1/8 of an inch of the outer bark is harvested while the dark inner bark is maintained. Harvesting bark can injure a tree so it's best to follow guidelines from an experienced harvester. Birch bark basket classes are popular in the Northwoods. Never harvest birch bark from public use areas in the state forest.

Balsam boughs. The smell of Christmas is in the air when balsam boughs are being harvested. Boughs are usually har-

vested from mid-September until November. Proper harvest of boughs is done 50 feet from a road and includes harvesting only a portion of the branch, leaving green behind so it can regenerate. Bough harvest can be an economic opportunity during the late fall season selling for about \$500 per ton to local wreath-making companies.

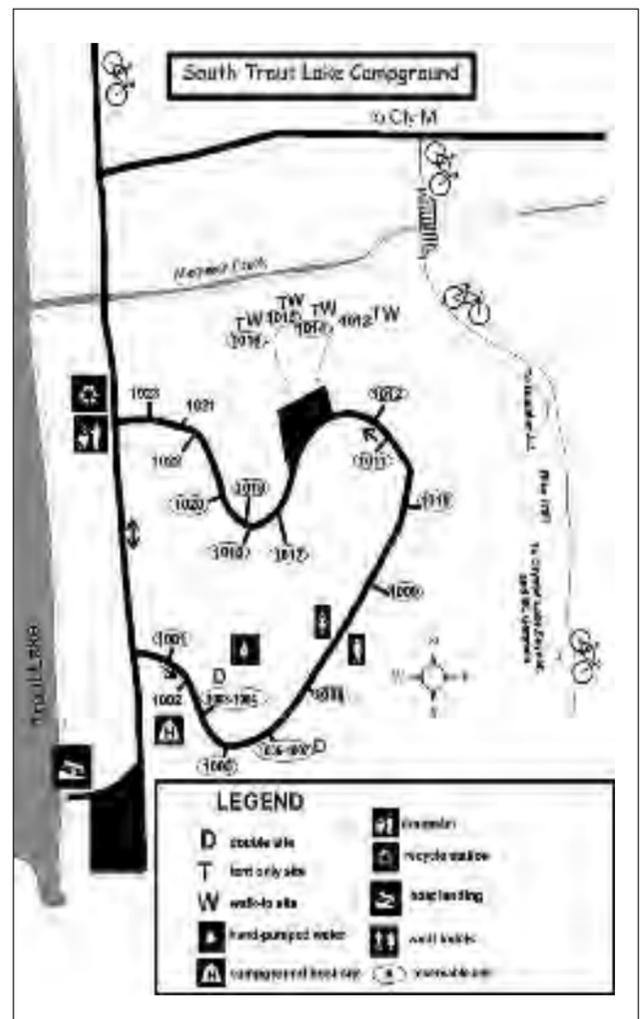
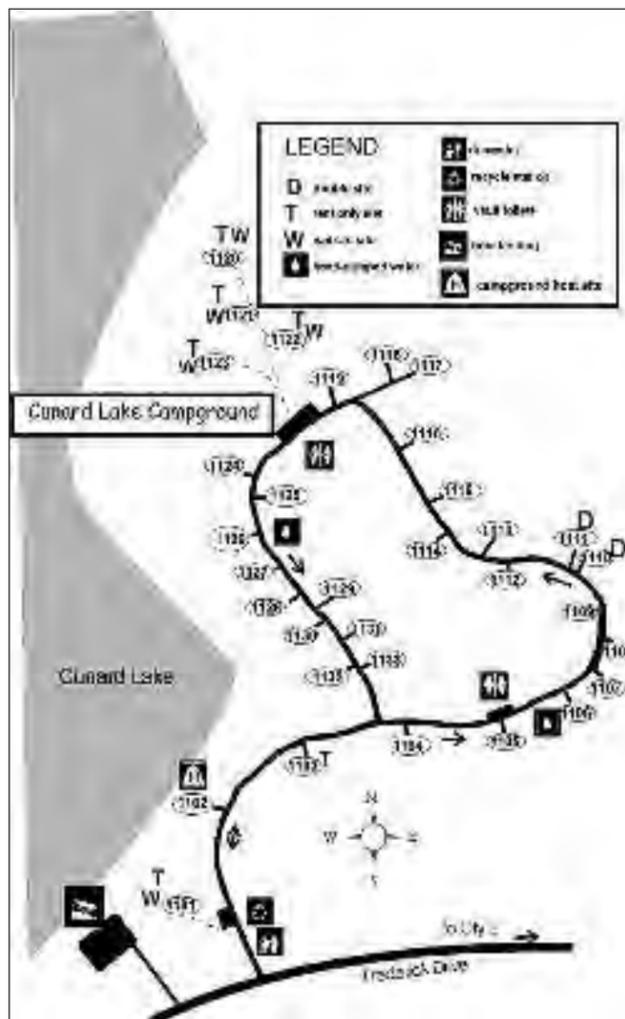
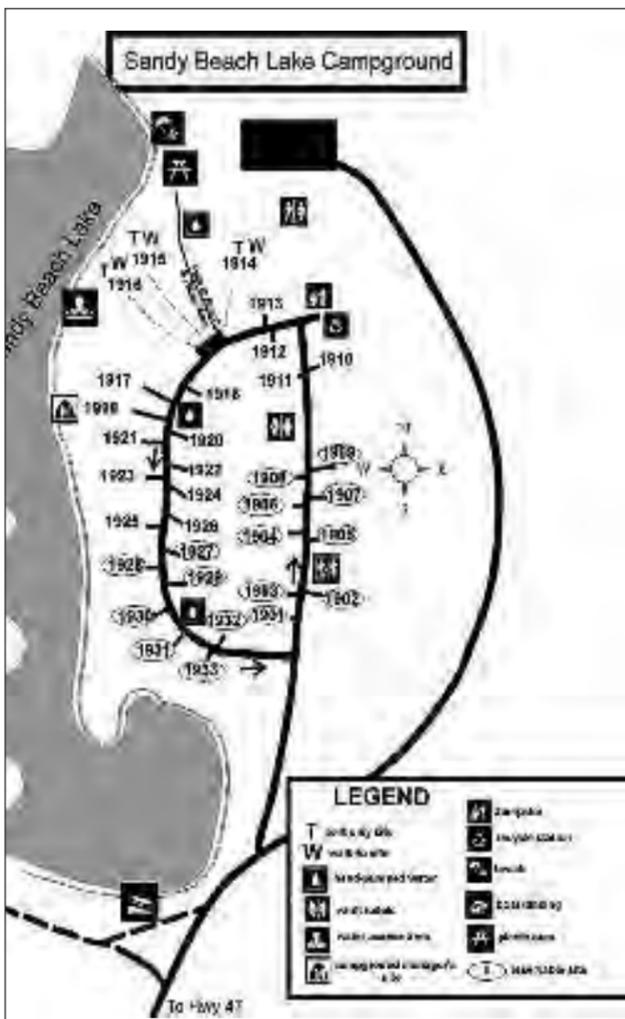
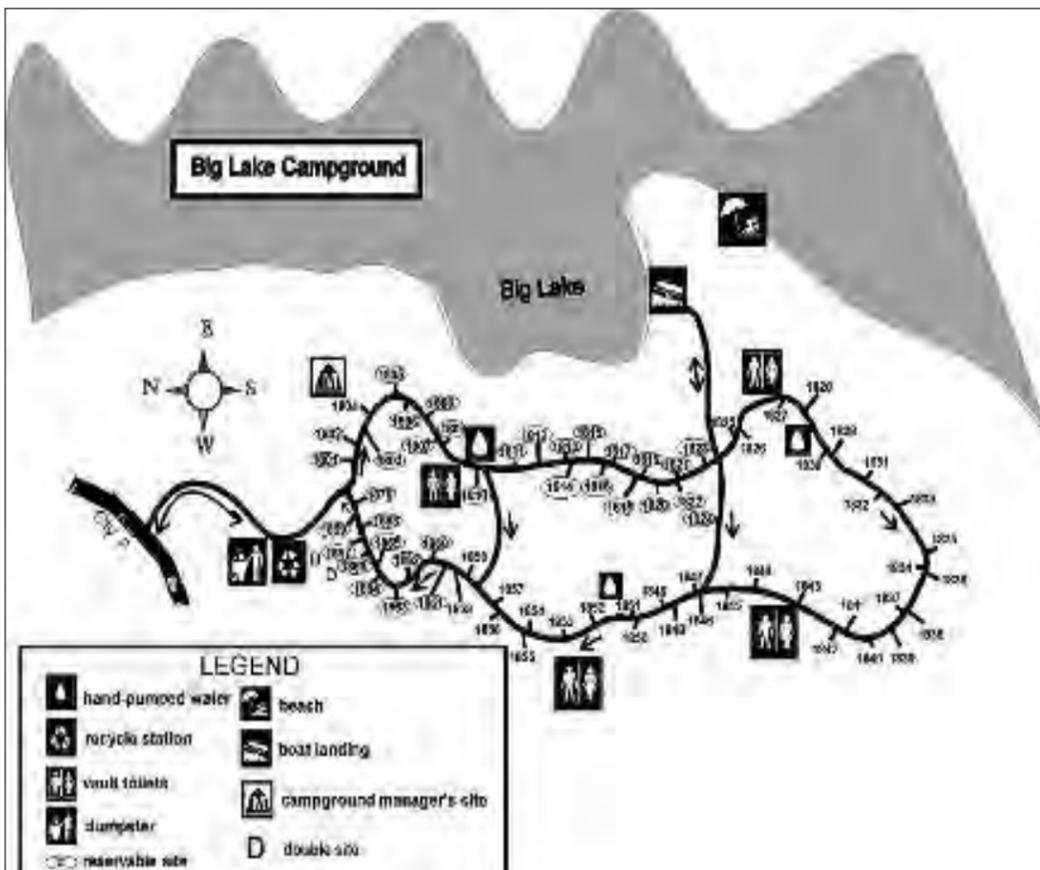
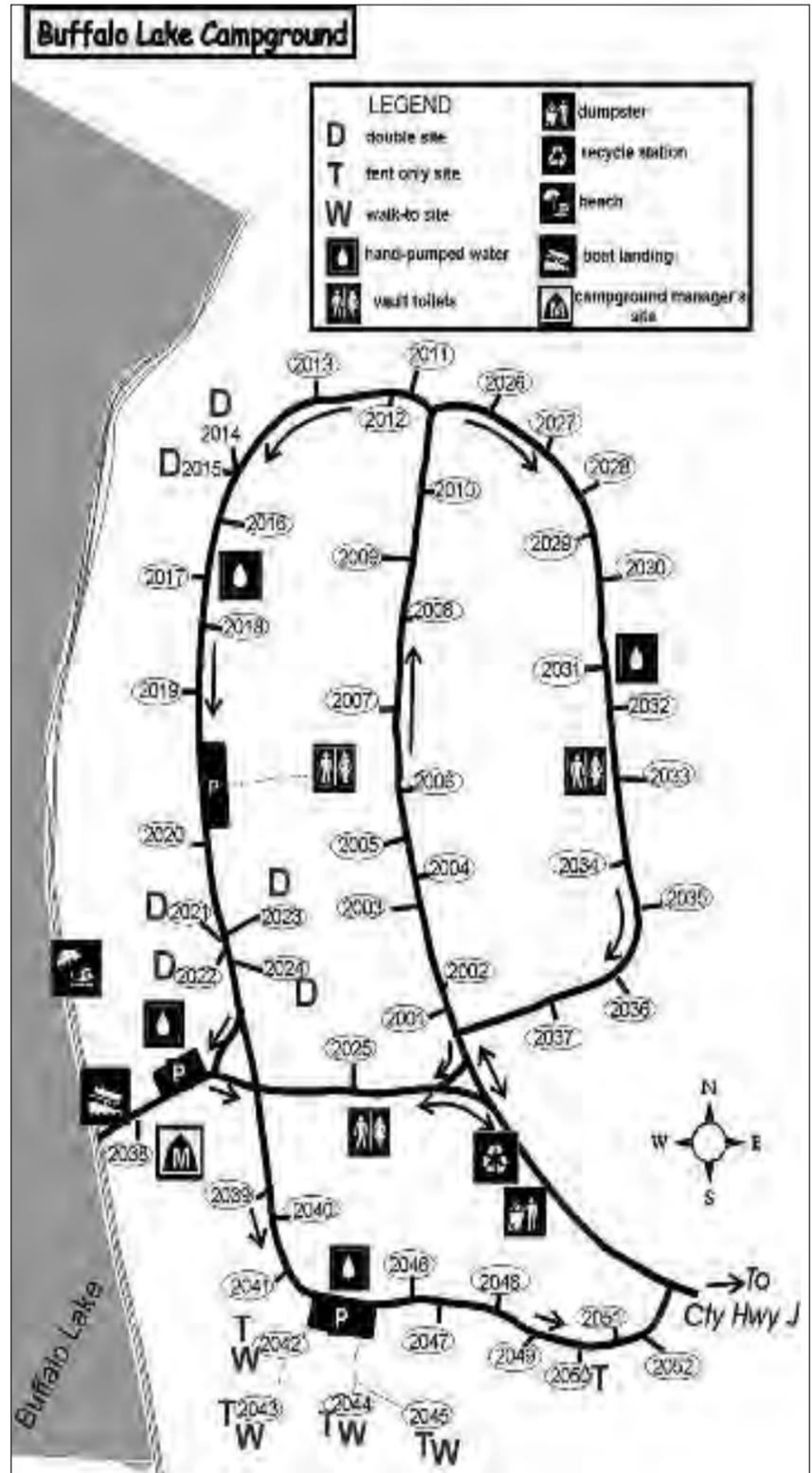
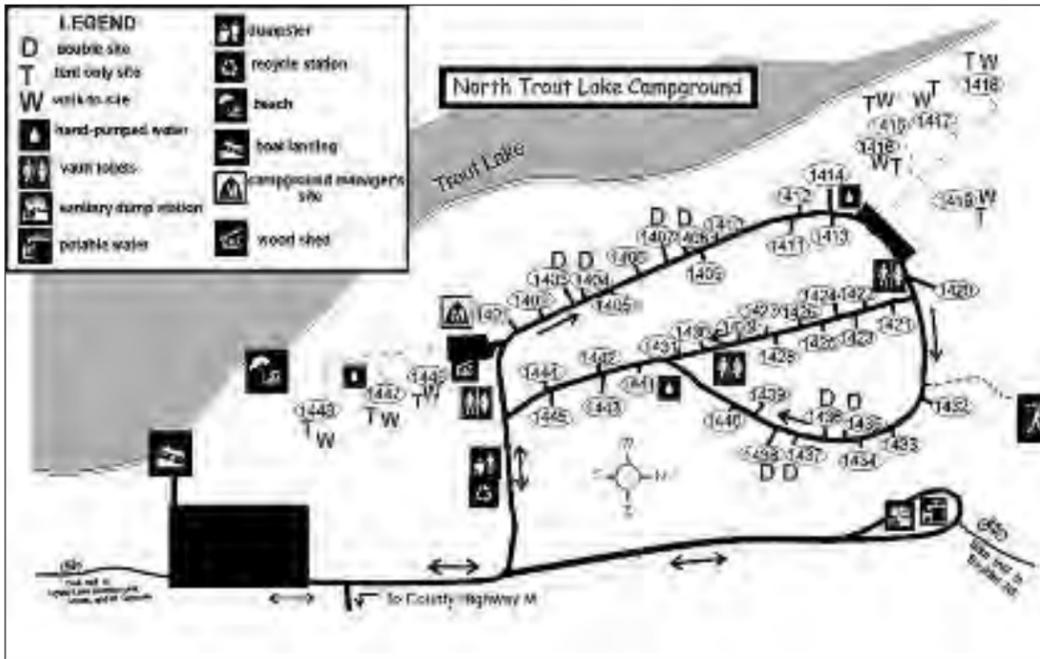
Pine cones. There are a variety of conifer trees in northern Wisconsin that produce cones of various shapes and sizes. Cones have been used for decorative displays for many projects. Harvesting cones can also be a small economic opportunity when the state nurseries are in need of conifer and other tree seeds. Here, the state nurseries can pay the harvester per bushel of cones they pick following appropriate guidelines. If interested, contact the nearest state nursery.

The final product from gathering can be a rewarding experience whether it's a birch bark basket or a beautifully carved, wood bowl. There are so many creations and products that can be gathered from the woods, but proper harvest and following guidelines are so important to maintaining a sustainable resource for future generations.

More information on non-timber Forest products, see the following websites: <http://www.mymnnesotawoods.umn.edu/category/nontimber-forest-products/> <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/TimberSales/nCommercial.html>

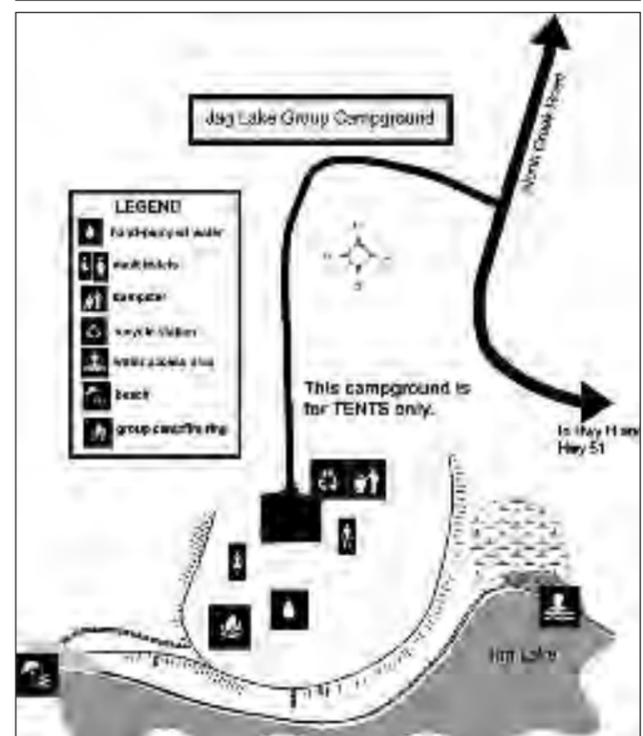
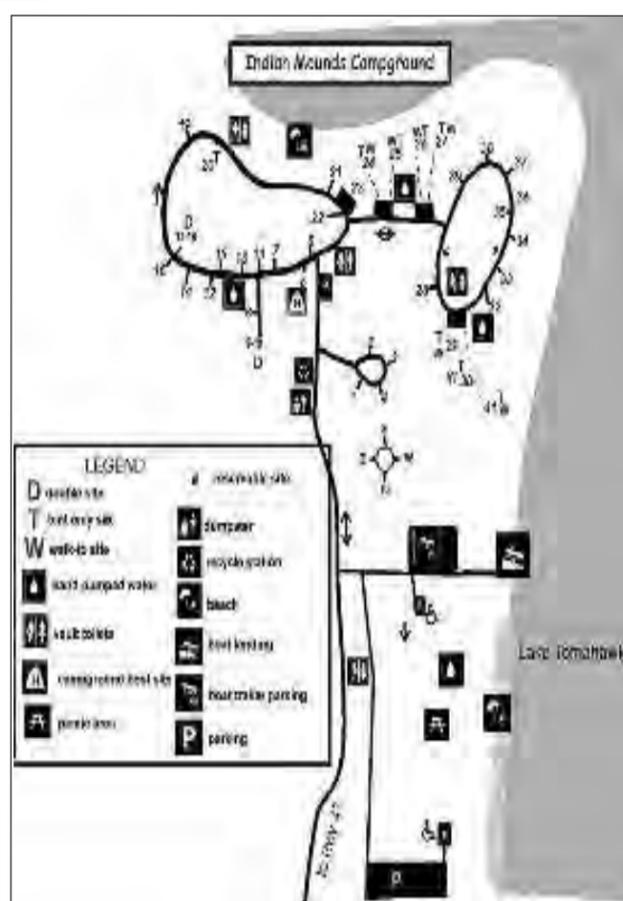
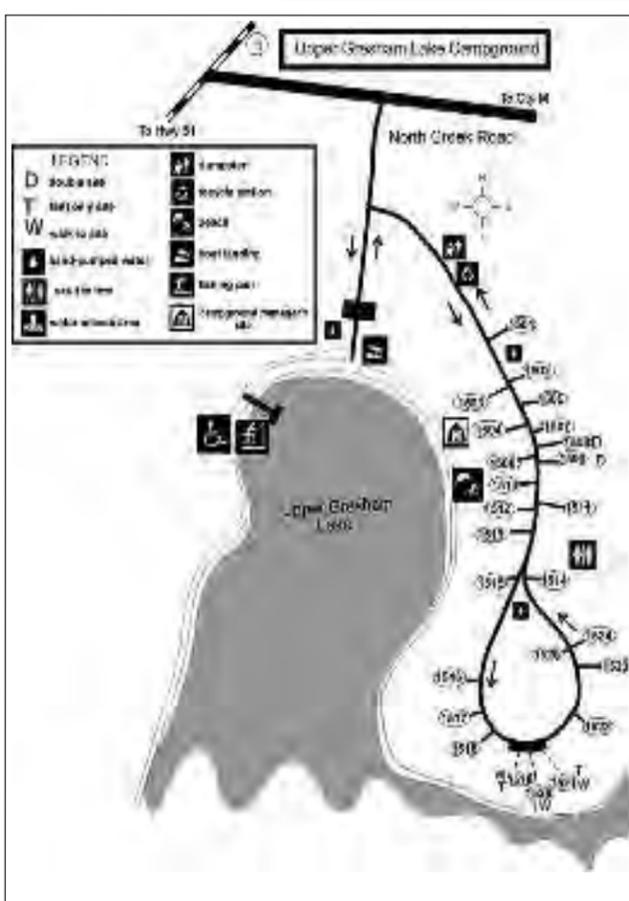
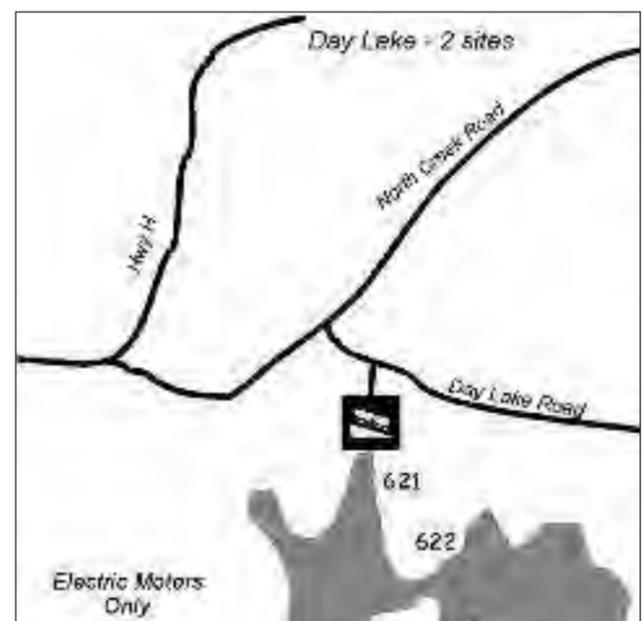
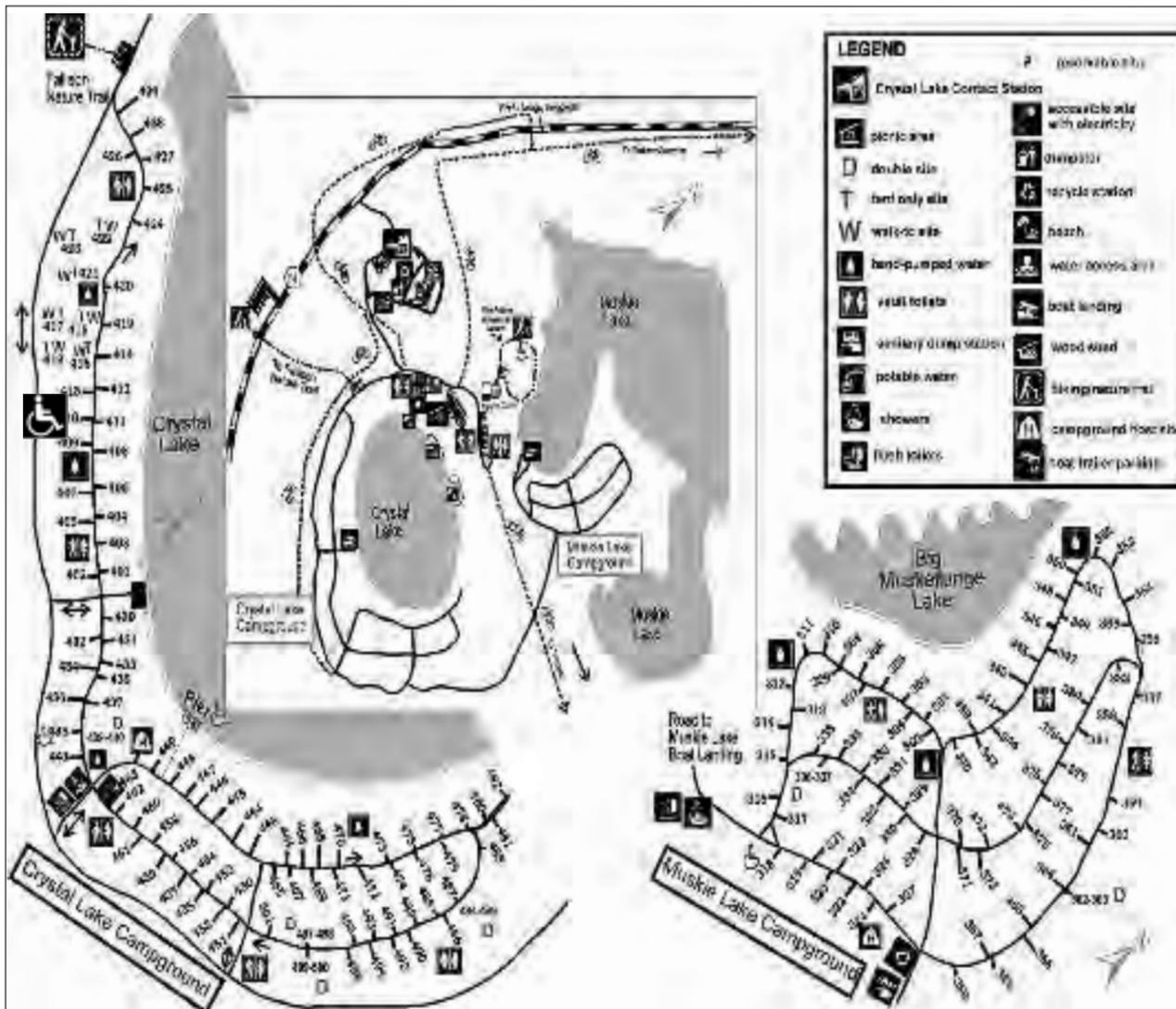
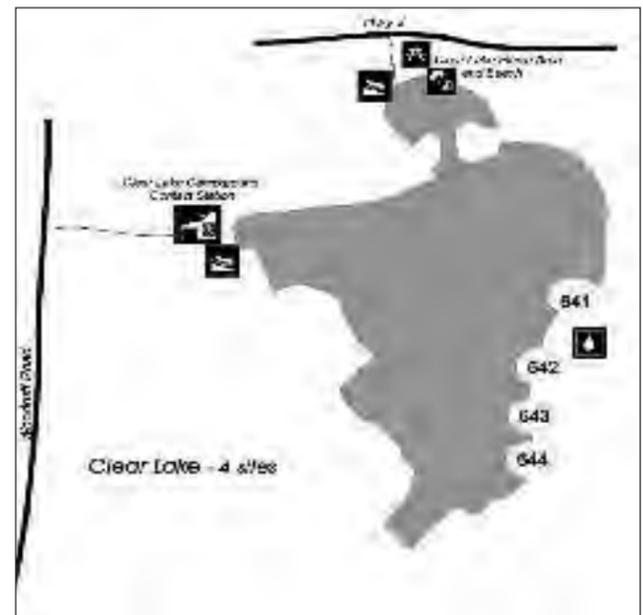
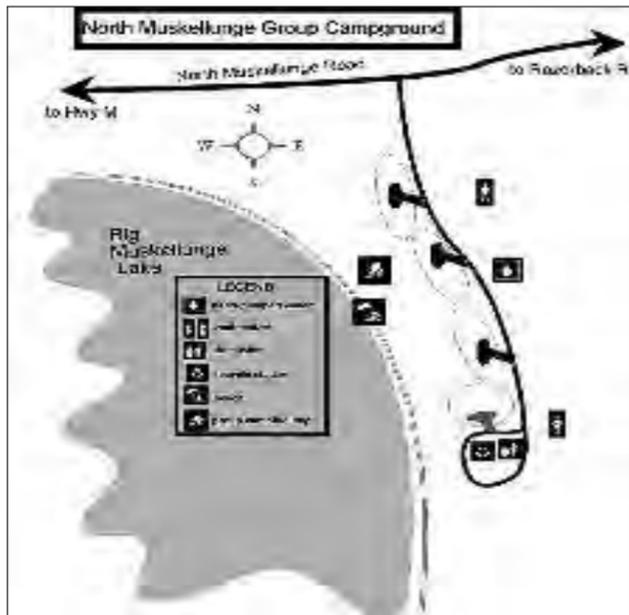


Campground Maps



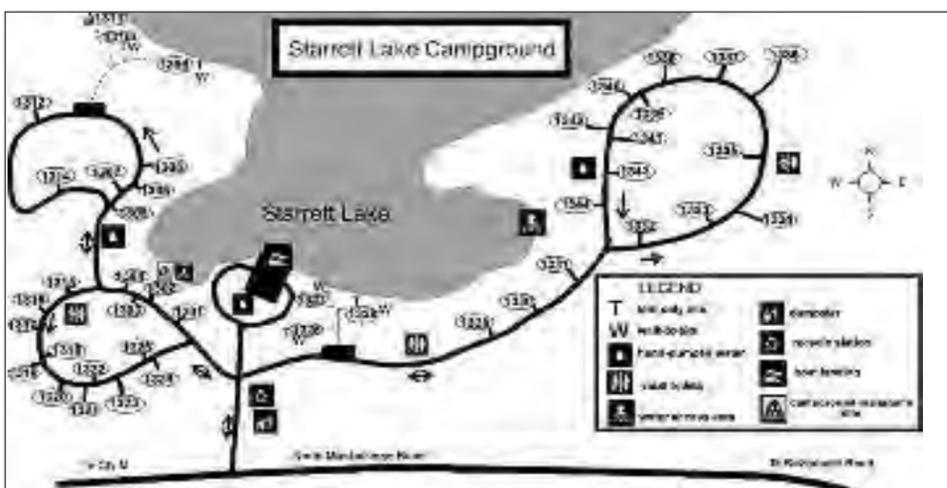
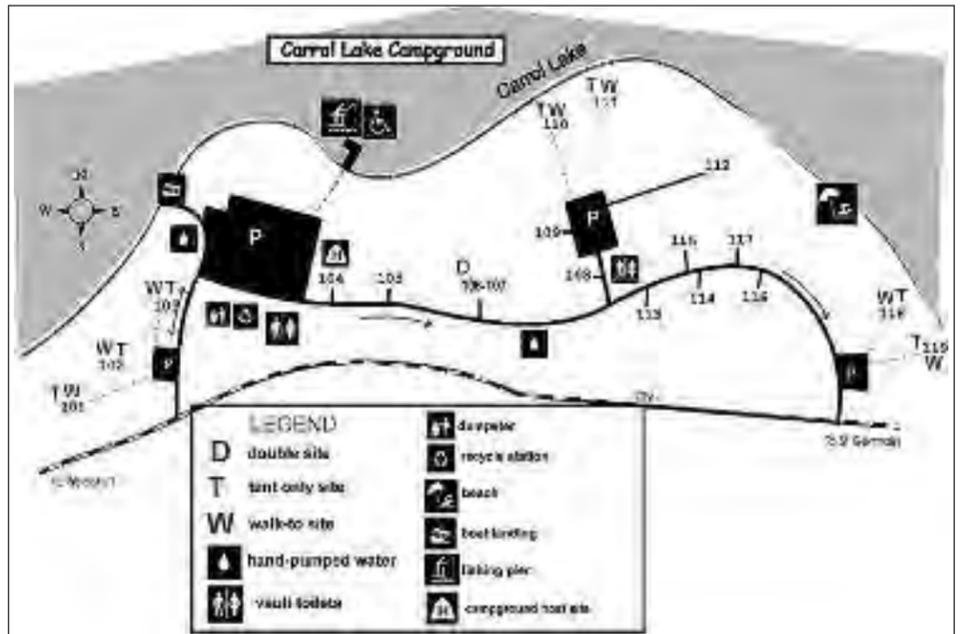
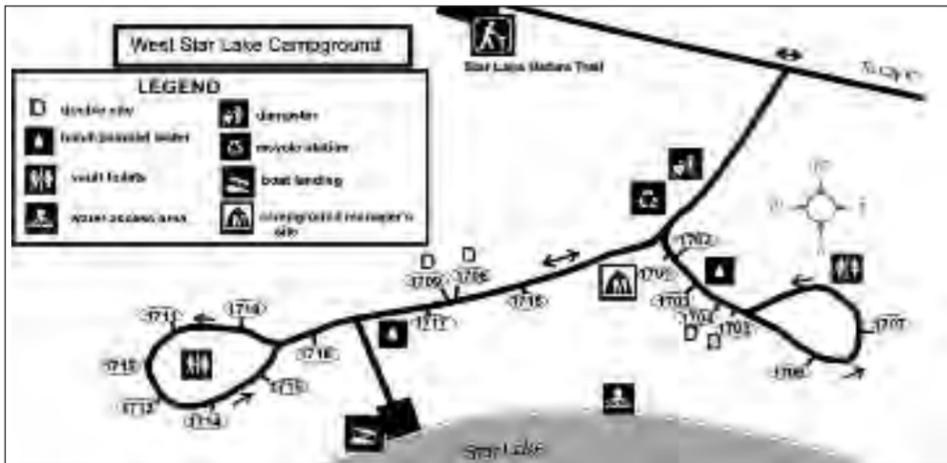
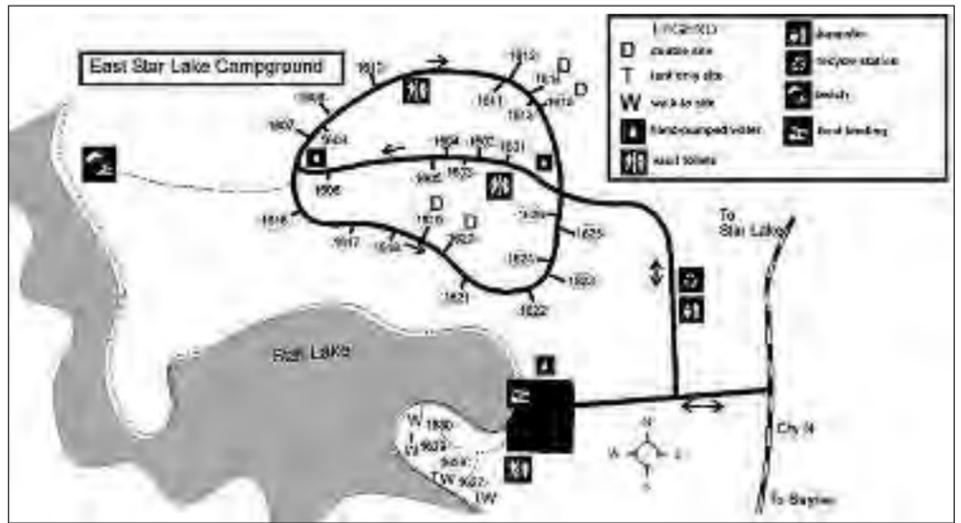
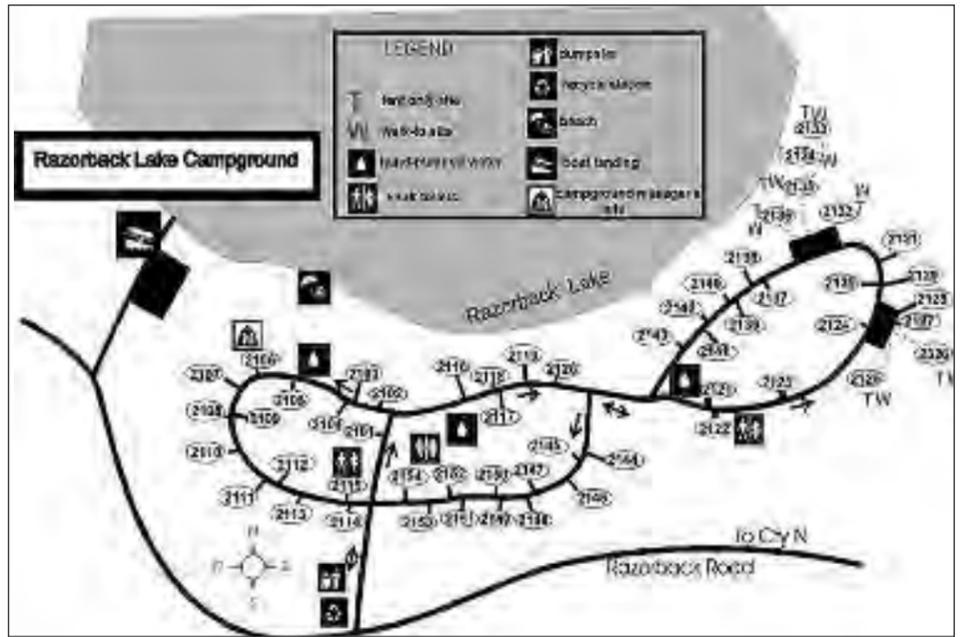
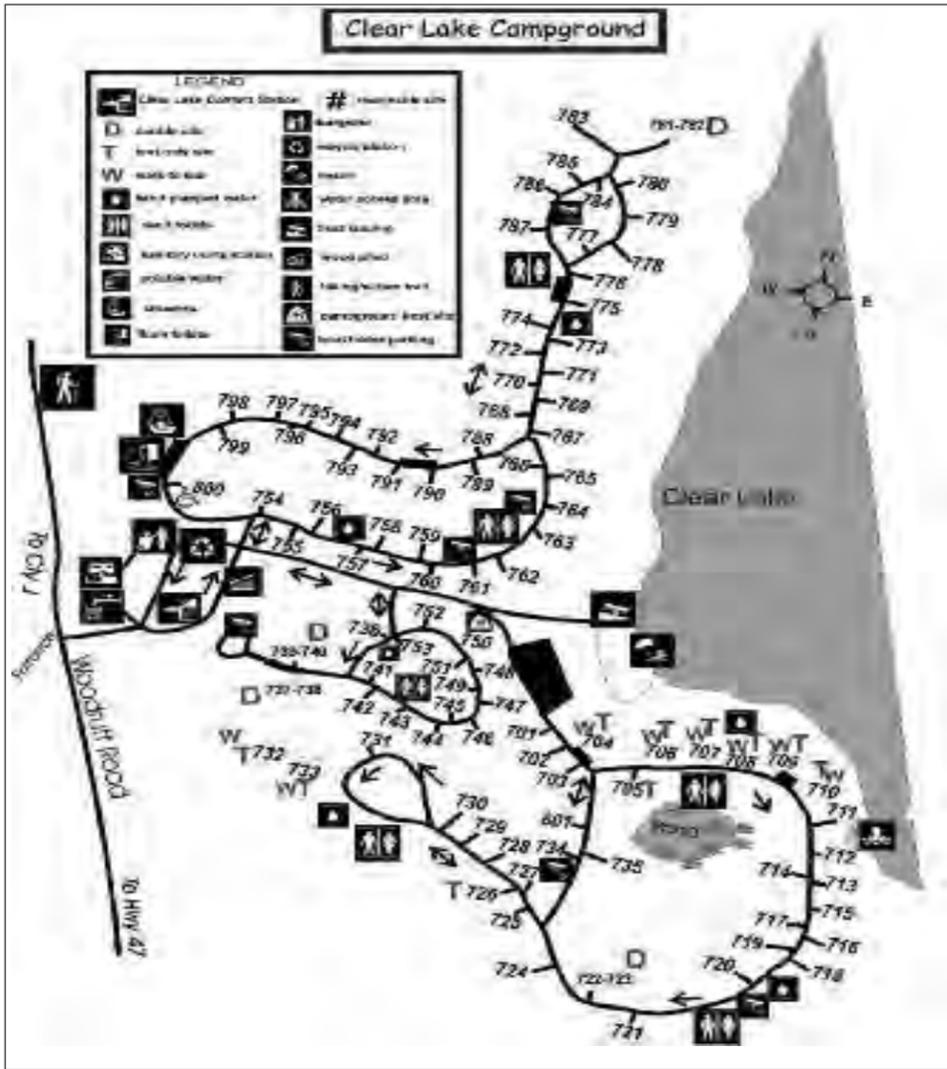
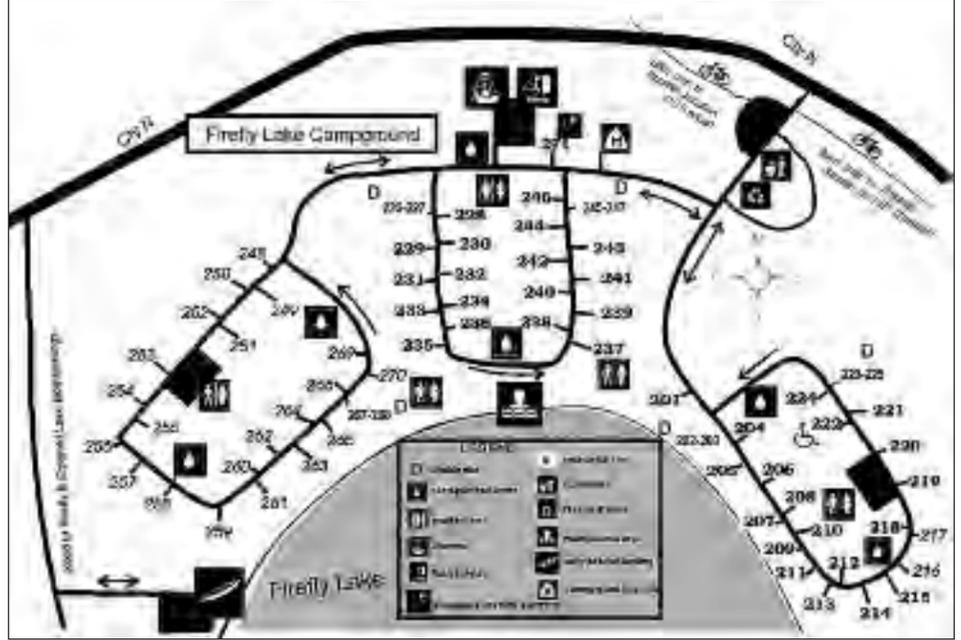
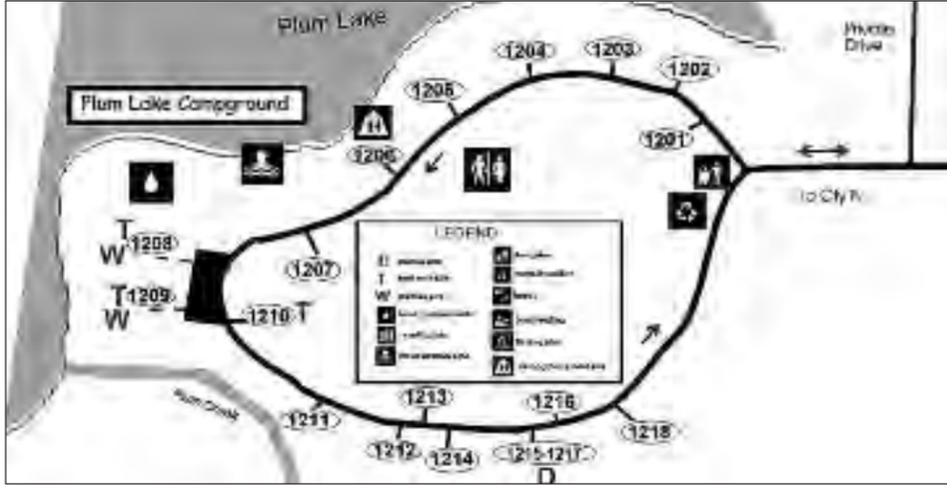


Campground Maps





Campground Maps



WELCOME

From page 1

many more miles of ungrooved trails. There are 18 family campgrounds with 865 campsites in the forest and two outdoor group camping areas that will each accommodate a total of 80 people. Boat landings are provided at most campgrounds.

There are five family campgrounds that accept reservations: Crystal Lake, Muskie Lake, Firefly Lake, Clear Lake and Indian Mounds. There are also five remote camping areas with a total of 17 campsites, also available by reservation. Seventy-eight canoe campsites, accessible only by water, are situated along the shorelines of the forest's myriad waterways. Winter camping is permitted at the Clear Lake Campground. Many of the campgrounds also feature nature trails, picnic areas with drinking water, toilets and swimming beaches.

In addition, the forest cleans our air and water, provides habitat for a wide range of plant and animal species, and helps us sustain our quality of life. A variety of rare species inhabit the forest, including a sampling classified as endangered, threatened or sensitive. Species such

as the spotted salamander, wood turtle and Cooper's hawk are quite uncommon and inconspicuous. Others such as the bald eagle, osprey and common loon provide visitors with more frequent viewing opportunities across the forest landscape. Gray wolf packs have once again found a home within the forest boundaries and sometimes greet visitors with distinctive howls heard in the still of the night.

Hunting, subject to specific regulations, is permitted in the forest. The area is very popular with many deer, bird and small game enthusiasts.

The NHAL State Forest has also earned a reputation as one of Wisconsin's hardest working forests. At any time, there may be 30 to 40 active timber sales in progress, so don't be surprised to see active logging operations taking place on your state forest. These timber sales provide necessary wood-based products while ensuring a healthy, sustainable forest that visitors will use and enjoy for many years to come.

Healthy, sustainable forests equal fun, too. As a matter of fact, nearly all of the NHAL's cross country ski and mountain bike trails trace their origins to timber sales. Many visitors actively seek out new timber sales for their enhanced wildlife viewing potential, as well.

IMPACT

From page 26

Laying your tarp inside the tent and folding up the outer edges will keep you dry in heavy rains. The bottom of the tent will be wet, but the tarp should keep you and your sleeping bag dry. Please refrain from digging up your campsite in an effort to divert water. This causes long-term damage to the site and provides an opportunity for invasive plant species to take hold.

Fire

You can lessen your impact on the woods while gathering and building cooking/warming fires. Use only dead and down wood that is well back from the shore. Consider going further back from the area where most people have collected. Collect a lesser amount from several different areas. Try using a folding saw instead of an axe. Some campers will store an axe in the bark of a tree. This damages the cambium, or live part of the tree, and will stress and kill the tree. Some prefer an axe for splitting but axes should be stored on the

ground, instead of in a tree. A campfire should only be large enough for cooking or warming. Large bonfires only waste wood that the next camper could use. Do not burn bottles or cans in the fire ring as they are toxic to breathe and never really burn completely. Smokey Bear reminds us to put fires out, completely.

Water

Lakes may seem clear and cool enough to drink but the water needs to be boiled, filtered or purified with tablets first. Packing-in water can work for short time periods, but the pump type purifiers, tablets, or boiling will ensure your drinking water is safe and help you to prevent dehydration and illness such as Giardia.

A few other ideas to tread lightly would be to use a central path or the steps provided, to reduce shoreline erosion. Before leaving, do a "clean sweep" picking up any cigarette butts, plastic and paper. It can be rewarding to know you left a minimal impact on the area. You can also be assured it will be appreciated by the next camper to use the site.



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Hiking / Biking / Skiing

Mantowish Waters Chamber Events
760-863-8888

MAY - NORTHWOODS BIRDS FESTIVAL
The Mantowish Waters Chamber hosts the annual bird festival in May. The festival features a variety of bird watching activities, including guided walks, bird banding, and bird photography. The festival is held at the Mantowish Waters Campground.

JUNE - SUNNY TRIP TO TRAVELERS
The Mantowish Waters Chamber hosts a sunny trip to Travelers in June. The trip is a day-long excursion to the Travelers Campground, where visitors can enjoy the beautiful views and enjoy a picnic.

JULY - SPEND THE DAY IN MANTOWISH WATERS
The Mantowish Waters Chamber hosts a day-long excursion in July. The excursion is a day-long excursion to the Mantowish Waters Campground, where visitors can enjoy the beautiful views and enjoy a picnic.

AUGUST - NORTHWOODS BALLOON
The Mantowish Waters Chamber hosts a Northwoods Balloon in August. The balloon is a day-long excursion to the Northwoods Balloon Campground, where visitors can enjoy the beautiful views and enjoy a picnic.

OCTOBER - CHINA-BENNA (FORMERLY CHERRYBERRY) COLONIAL
The Mantowish Waters Chamber hosts a China-Benna (formerly Cherryberry) Colonial in October. The colonial is a day-long excursion to the China-Benna (formerly Cherryberry) Colonial Campground, where visitors can enjoy the beautiful views and enjoy a picnic.

DECEMBER - MARVEL IN MANTOWISH WATERS
The Mantowish Waters Chamber hosts a Marvel in Mantowish Waters in December. The Marvel is a day-long excursion to the Marvel in Mantowish Waters Campground, where visitors can enjoy the beautiful views and enjoy a picnic.

St. Germain Chamber Events
735-477-2103

MAY - MANTOWISH IN MAY
The St. Germain Chamber hosts a Mantowish in May in May. The Mantowish is a day-long excursion to the Mantowish Waters Campground, where visitors can enjoy the beautiful views and enjoy a picnic.

JUNE - WALK IN THE WOODS ART FAIR
The St. Germain Chamber hosts a Walk in the Woods Art Fair in June. The art fair is a day-long excursion to the Walk in the Woods Art Fair Campground, where visitors can enjoy the beautiful views and enjoy a picnic.

JULY - CHRISTMAS IN JULY CRAFT FAIR
The St. Germain Chamber hosts a Christmas in July Craft Fair in July. The craft fair is a day-long excursion to the Christmas in July Craft Fair Campground, where visitors can enjoy the beautiful views and enjoy a picnic.

AUGUST - PUMPKIN IN THE PINE FOREST
The St. Germain Chamber hosts a Pumpkin in the Pine Forest in August. The pumpkin is a day-long excursion to the Pumpkin in the Pine Forest Campground, where visitors can enjoy the beautiful views and enjoy a picnic.

SEPTEMBER - COLORADO CRAFT FAIR
The St. Germain Chamber hosts a Colorado Craft Fair in September. The craft fair is a day-long excursion to the Colorado Craft Fair Campground, where visitors can enjoy the beautiful views and enjoy a picnic.

OCTOBER - MOUNTAIN WISCONSIN REGIONAL TOURNEY
The St. Germain Chamber hosts a Mountain Wisconsin Regional Tourney in October. The tourney is a day-long excursion to the Mountain Wisconsin Regional Tourney Campground, where visitors can enjoy the beautiful views and enjoy a picnic.

Blair Junction Chamber Events
735-460-6454

MAY - WHITE EGG TRAMPOLINE
The Blair Junction Chamber hosts a White Egg Trampoline in May. The trampoline is a day-long excursion to the White Egg Trampoline Campground, where visitors can enjoy the beautiful views and enjoy a picnic.

JUNE - LIGHTS BLUE WEEKLY SUMMER FISH MARKET
The Blair Junction Chamber hosts a Lights Blue Weekly Summer Fish Market in June. The fish market is a day-long excursion to the Lights Blue Weekly Summer Fish Market Campground, where visitors can enjoy the beautiful views and enjoy a picnic.

JULY - MUSIC ON MAIN STREET
The Blair Junction Chamber hosts a Music on Main Street in July. The music is a day-long excursion to the Music on Main Street Campground, where visitors can enjoy the beautiful views and enjoy a picnic.

AUGUST - MUSKY JAMBOREE WEEKEND
The Blair Junction Chamber hosts a Musky Jamboree Weekend in August. The jamboree is a day-long excursion to the Musky Jamboree Weekend Campground, where visitors can enjoy the beautiful views and enjoy a picnic.

SEPTEMBER - COLORADO ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR
The Blair Junction Chamber hosts a Colorado Arts & Crafts Fair in September. The craft fair is a day-long excursion to the Colorado Arts & Crafts Fair Campground, where visitors can enjoy the beautiful views and enjoy a picnic.

OCTOBER - HARVEST FEST
The Blair Junction Chamber hosts a Harvest Fest in October. The fest is a day-long excursion to the Harvest Fest Campground, where visitors can enjoy the beautiful views and enjoy a picnic.

Sayner-Mar Lake Chamber Events
735-722-2782

FEBRUARY - PULASKI LAKE ICE FISHING TOURNAMENT
The Sayner-Mar Lake Chamber hosts a Pulaski Lake Ice Fishing Tournament in February. The tournament is a day-long excursion to the Pulaski Lake Ice Fishing Tournament Campground, where visitors can enjoy the beautiful views and enjoy a picnic.

MAY - MANTOWISH SPRING STAMPEDE
The Sayner-Mar Lake Chamber hosts a Mantowish Spring Stampede in May. The stampede is a day-long excursion to the Mantowish Spring Stampede Campground, where visitors can enjoy the beautiful views and enjoy a picnic.

JULY - 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION
The Sayner-Mar Lake Chamber hosts a 4th of July Celebration in July. The celebration is a day-long excursion to the 4th of July Celebration Campground, where visitors can enjoy the beautiful views and enjoy a picnic.

AUGUST - SAYNER-STAR LAKE STREET FAIR
The Sayner-Mar Lake Chamber hosts a Sayner-Star Lake Street Fair in August. The street fair is a day-long excursion to the Sayner-Star Lake Street Fair Campground, where visitors can enjoy the beautiful views and enjoy a picnic.

SEPTEMBER - STEW LAKE MARKET BAZAR
The Sayner-Mar Lake Chamber hosts a Stew Lake Market Bazar in September. The bazar is a day-long excursion to the Stew Lake Market Bazar Campground, where visitors can enjoy the beautiful views and enjoy a picnic.

SEPTEMBER - SAYNER COLORADO
The Sayner-Mar Lake Chamber hosts a Sayner Colorado in September. The Colorado is a day-long excursion to the Sayner Colorado Campground, where visitors can enjoy the beautiful views and enjoy a picnic.

Tom Roberts Memorial Nature Trail

Crystal Lake Nature Center

NO PETS

.6 mile loop

North Trout Nature Trail

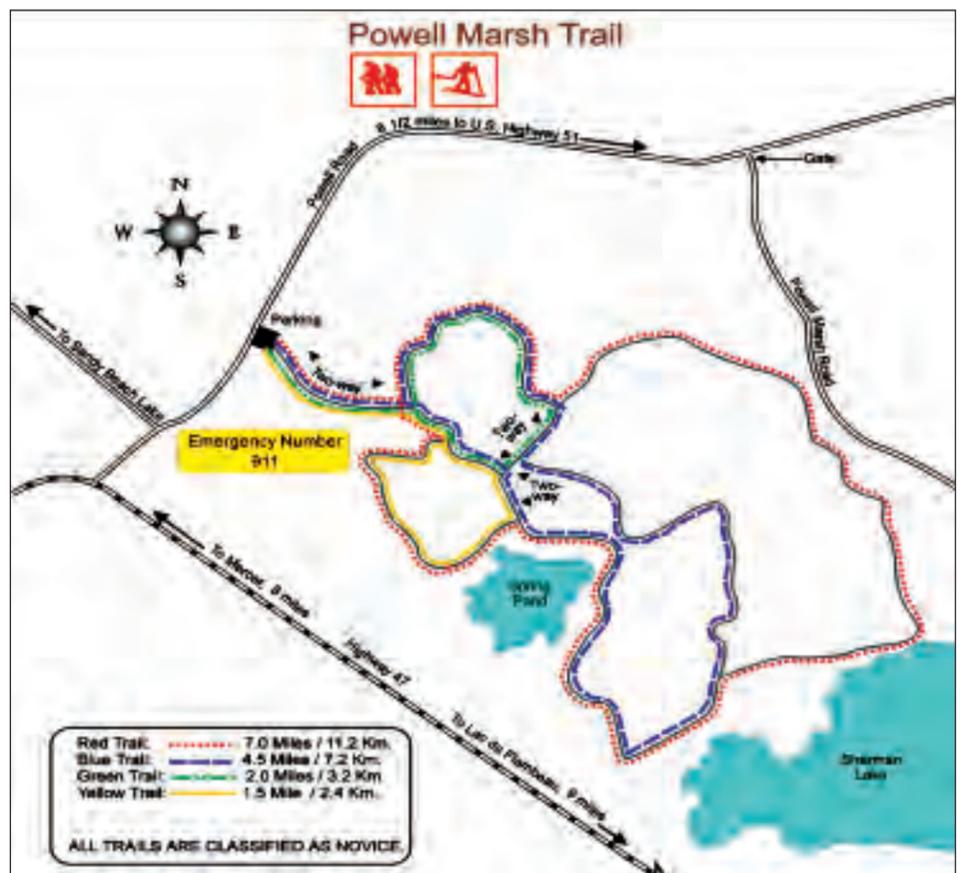
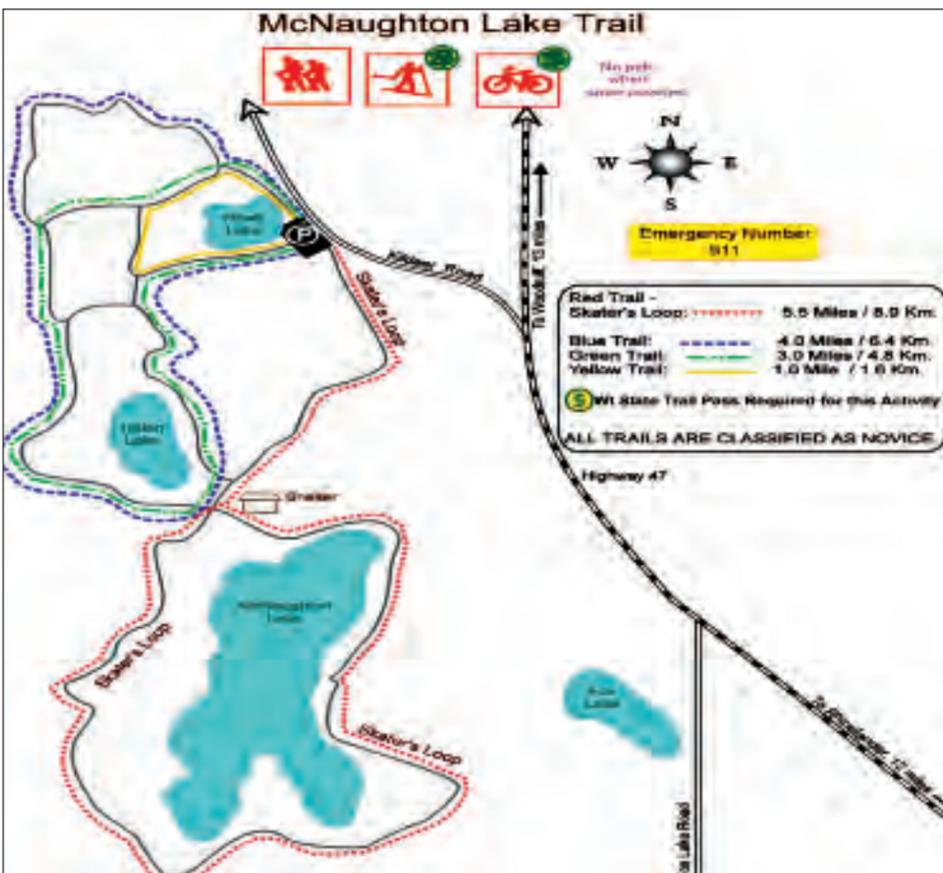
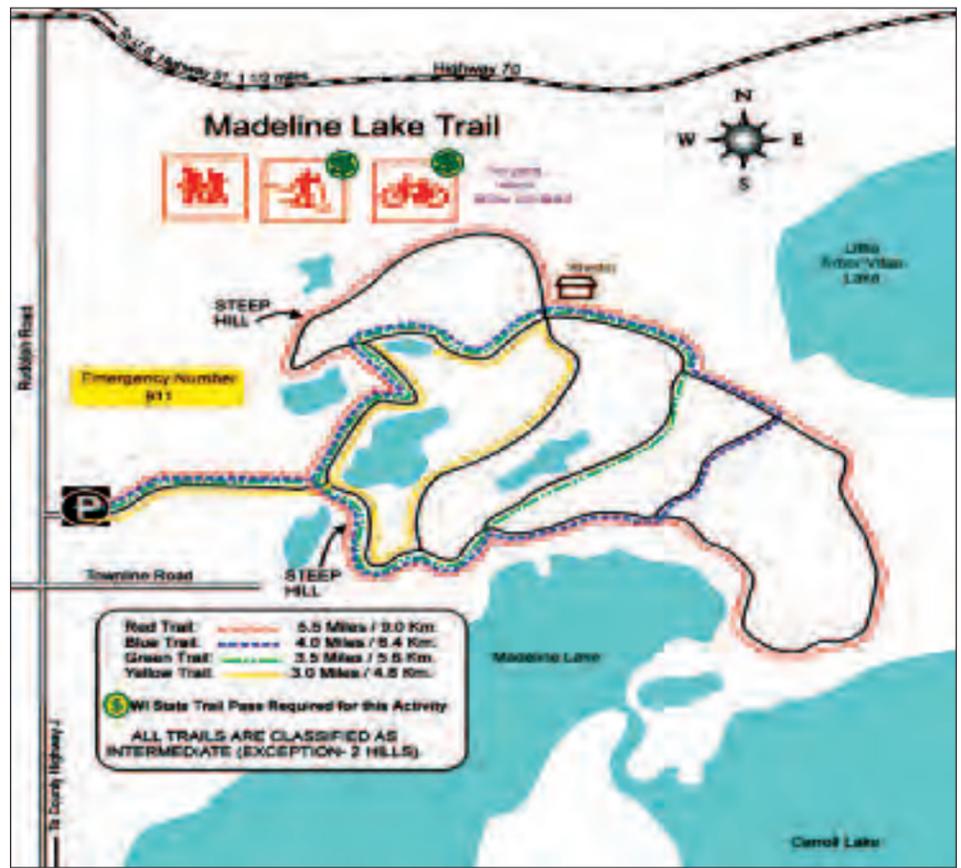
Crystal Lake Nature Center

NO PETS

1 mile loop

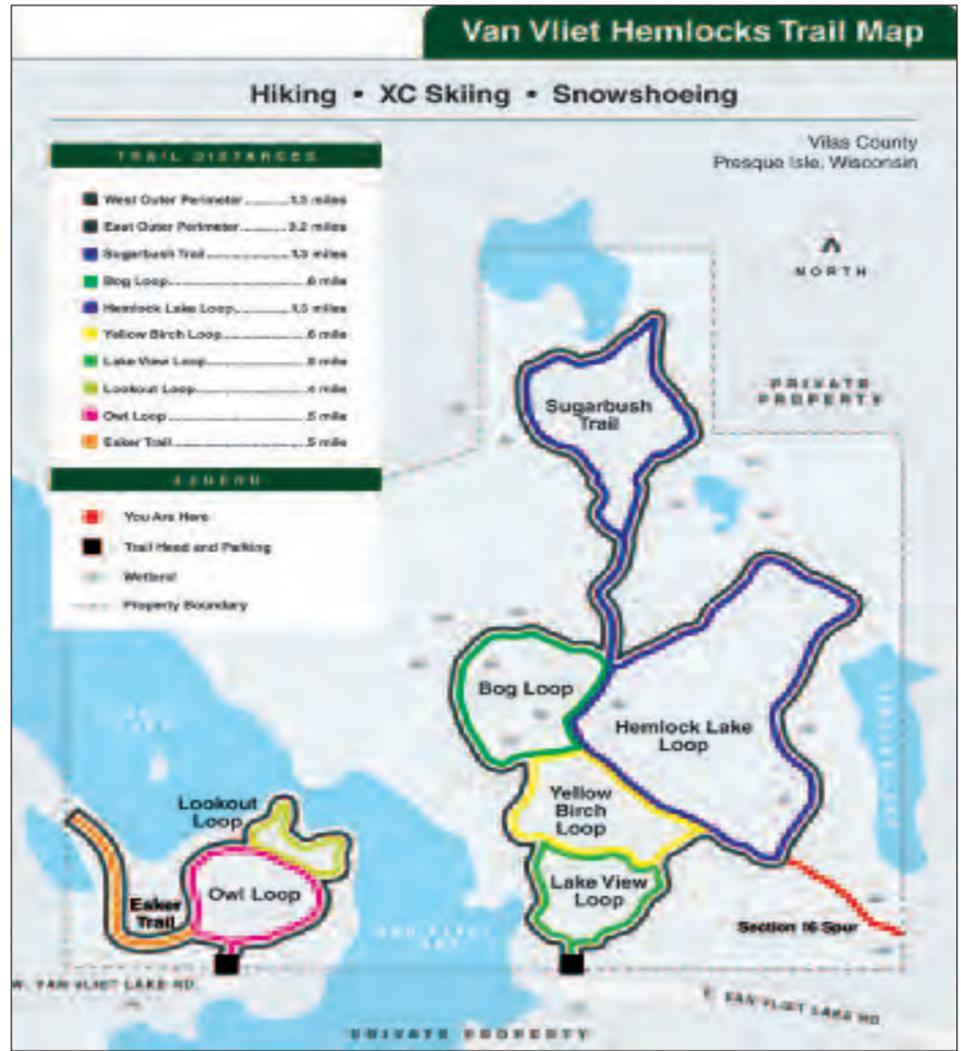


Hiking / Biking / Skiing





Hiking / Biking / Skiing



Seasons change



Dean Baker photograph

Fall changing to winter is a beautiful time on The Northern Highland American Legion State Forest.

Get on your bike and ride



Dean Baker photograph

Bike trails are just one of the many recreation opportunities on The Northern Highland American Legion State Forest. The NHAL boasts more than 50 miles of paved bike trails.

Weather warnings? What to do

On July 27, 2010, a tornado struck the Turtle Flambeau Flowage, a short distance northwest of the NHAL State Forest. The flowage has a number of remote campsites and many people were camped that night. There were a few serious injuries, and thankfully there were no fatalities. Here on the NHAL that night, we had some trees blown down and some camping equipment damaged, but no serious injuries. Our facilities were cleaned up and repaired within a few days. We were pretty lucky that night. If the tornado's course had been twenty miles south, some of our campgrounds could have seen serious damage.

The National Weather Service announces dangerous weather. They will issue "watches" if conditions offer potential for severe weather. "Warnings" are issued if there is a likelihood of severe weather, or if it is directly

reported. Weather forecasting has evolved to become very accurate and warnings should be taken seriously.

The easiest way to receive weather announcements is from a weather radio, available at low cost from many stores. Battery operated, they will work just fine in our campgrounds and remote campsites. Alternatively, local commercial radio stations will broadcast warnings, and these may be able to better pinpoint a storm's location and direction of travel for you. That being the case, it is helpful for you to be aware of where you are geographically. The most local radio stations for the NHAL area are: FM 92.5 WJJQ; 94.5 WRJO; 95.9 WMQA; 98.3 WCQM; and 99.7 WIMI.

Do not depend on Rangers or other staff to provide warnings to you. As much as we would like to assure we can do this, we simply can not. To the

degree that we are able, we will do so, but our staff is spread too thin and may not be positioned to be effective, nor do we staff 24 hours a day. Your safety is ultimately in your own hands.

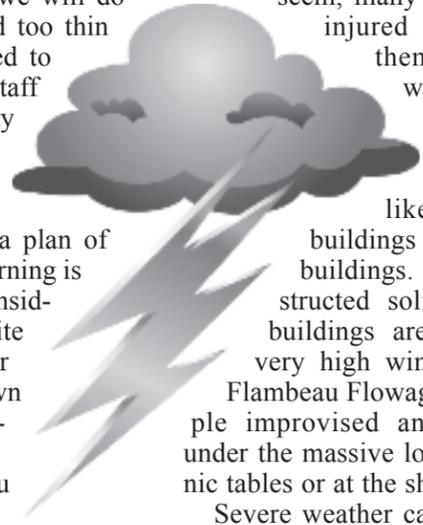
If severe weather threatens, begin to form a plan of what you would do if a warning is announced. You might consider picking up your campsite and rolling up your awning. Maybe take down your picnic awning. Consider where you would seek shelter and how you would get there. Make plans with your family to establish a meeting place if you get separated.

When you receive a warning, seek shelter. As safe as your vehicle may

seem, many people have been injured or killed within them during violent weather. Seek shelter in low lying areas or within sturdy buildings,

like our shower buildings or concrete toilet buildings. Our recently constructed solid concrete toilet buildings are built to sustain very high winds. At the Turtle Flambeau Flowage area, many people improvised and sought shelter under the massive log constructed picnic tables or at the shoreline.

Severe weather can lead to tragedy. Modern forecasting and planning on your part can help to keep you safe. Please take a few minutes to plan how you would respond to a severe weather warning.



Eagle eye



Dean Baker photograph

A pair of bald eagles sit perched in a tall dead pine while waiting for an opportunity for a meal. Northern Wisconsin boasts a high concentration of year round resident eagles.

Double campsite use policy

Double sites are designed to allow two separate camping parties to camp close together in a group-like setting. When making a reservation, or at check-in if the site is not reservable, campers choosing a double site will be charged for both halves of the campsite. Upon check-in, campers will be required to provide the names, vehicle license plate information, and camping unit informa-

tion for the camping party on the other half of their double site. A usable camping unit must be set up on each side of the double site by 11 p.m. on check-in day. A double site cannot be reserved/registered for a single camping party.

The fee for a double site is twice that of a single site. Double sites can accommodate two camping units and a maximum of 12 campers.



Rising to the occasion



Dean Baker photograph

A loon rises out of the water to stretch its wings. A loon chick instinctively mimics its parents. Many waters on The Northern Highland American Legion boast returning loons to raise families.

Chilly dip



Dean Baker photograph

An otter prepares to dive in the icy waters of Trout Lake to catch crayfish.

Native plants of the NHAL State Forest

by Colleen Matula
WDNR Forest Ecologist

Native, wild plants present a wonderful opportunity for you to enjoy Northern Wisconsin's natural beauty, its landscapes and its changing seasons. Colorful blossoms and greenery are found in woodlands, wetlands, meadows, streams and lakes on the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest. This diversity reflects the Northern Highlands ecological landscape, known for its pitted outwash plains and kettle lakes mixed with extensive forests and large peatlands. Current forest vegetation is primarily aspen, with white, red and jack pine in both natural and plantation form. Northern hardwood forests, though reduced in extent, still occur on the more mesic soils. Lowland conifer occupies the many peatlands that are scattered throughout the state forest.



Snow trillium

that are few because of some direct threats. These threats include over abundance of earthworms, deer browse, invasive species, and climate change. Because of these concerns, some direct impacts have been researched on the state forest. Above all keep in mind, all plants are protected on Wisconsin's public lands. So when visiting native plants in their habitat, please take only pictures and leave only footprints so that you and others can return again to enjoy these treasures of the State Forest.

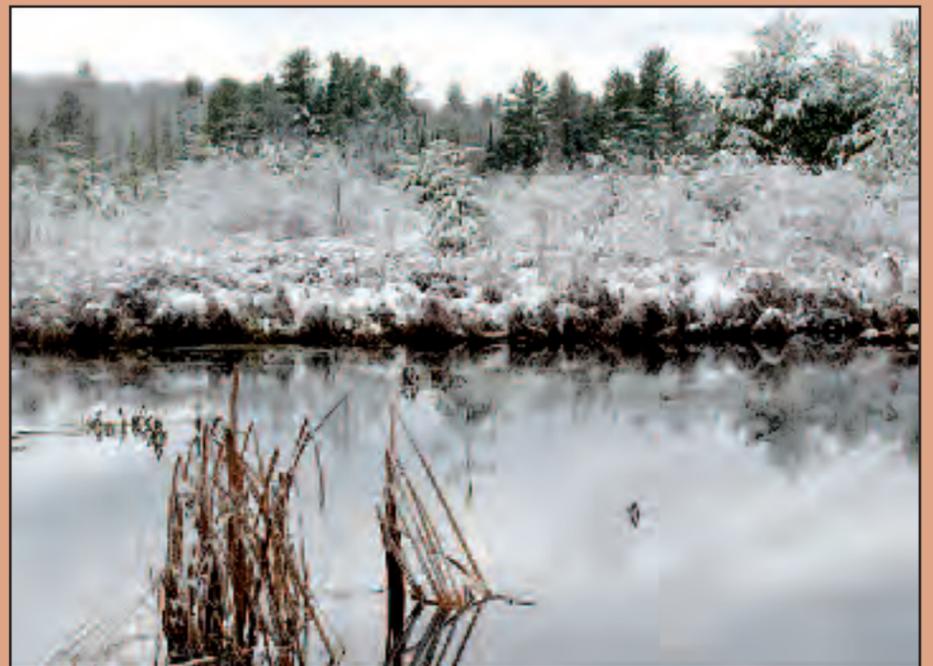
When viewing native plants, timing and location are important. Early spring wildflowers, known as "spring ephemeral" plants, are a special group of woodland flowers. Ephemeral flowers are so named because they appear above ground in early spring before the trees had a chance to unfurl their leaves. They flower and fruit and then die back into the ground all in a short two-month period. Bloodroot, Cut-leaved Toothwort, Trout Lily and Trilliums are some examples that emerge in April and are all gone by May or June. As a group, they constitute one of the largest groups of wildflowers in northern Wisconsin. By the time the warm winds of summer begin to blow, these flowers are long gone, often unnoticed by the casual nature explorer. Other plants such as ferns, asters and sunflowers are best viewed mid-to-late summer in more open, sunny habitats.

When planning to view native plants and wildflowers don't forget to bring the following: a state forest map, wildflower or plant guide, camera, bug repellent and water, if on a longer hike. Some of the best places to view wildflowers and other native plants are on the many trail systems throughout the State Forest such as Fallison, North Trout Lake and the Plum Lake area. Some recommended wildflower and plant guides include Newcomb's Wildflower Guide by Lawrence Newcomb, Trailside Botany by John Bates, and Wildflowers of Wisconsin by Stan Tekiela. Also, a wildflower list for the State Forest can be obtained at the state forest ranger stations, Trout Lake headquarters and the Crystal Lake Nature Center.

There are also numerous rare and endemic plants to the Northern Highlands landscape and warrant special protection. Several orchids such as the Calypso and Rams Head orchid are found in special habitats with numbers

Enjoy these local treasures.

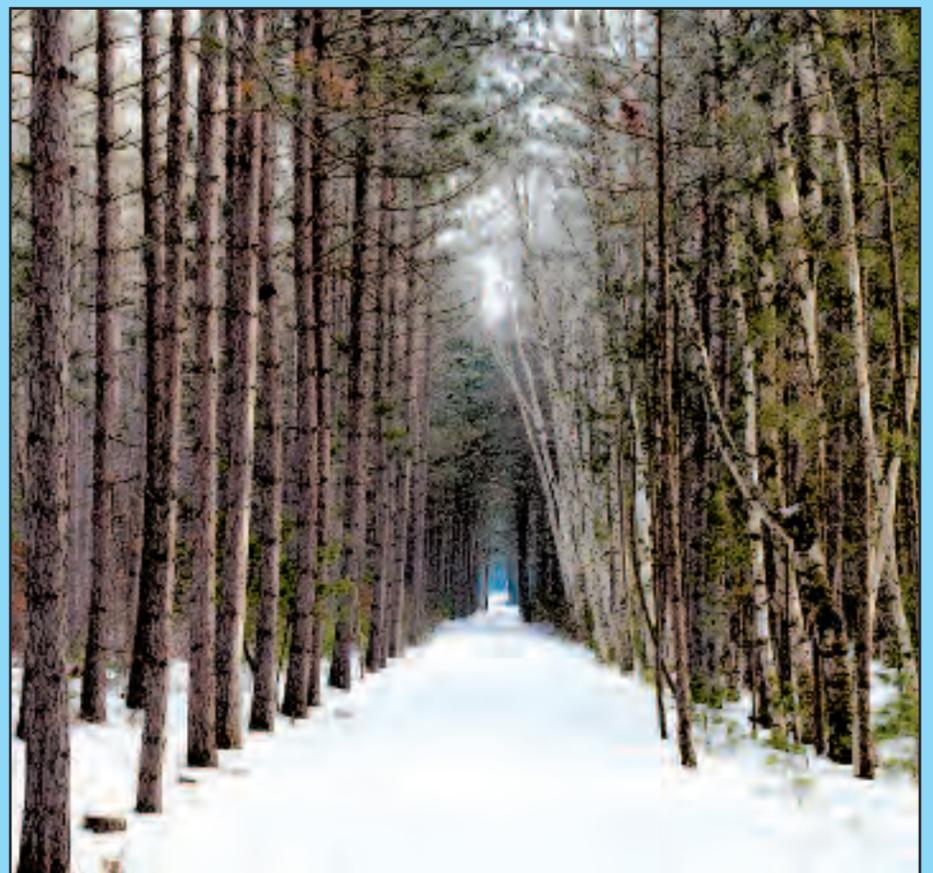
Crispy creek



Dean Baker photograph

Gilmore Creek after a snowfall.

A different perspective



Dean Baker photograph

Crystal Lake bike path in the winter.



Community Spotlight

FUN FACT #12

By **KIMBERLY KRAWCZYK**
CRYSTAL LAKE RANGER
STATION MANAGER

South Trout Lake Campground Historical Area. What is now known as Ben Bendrick Drive along the Trout Lake shoreline was originally part of the railroad grade connecting Boulder Junction and Woodruff. Where South Trout Lake Campground is now located sat the old Trout Lake Post Office, dance hall and general store. It was here the first settlers and tourists in the area departed from the train, picked up the mail, and purchased supplies before traveling by wagon or boat to their summer homes or cottages.

By Theresa Smith

Boulder Junction
Chamber of Commerce
Executive Director

Boulder Junction, the Musky Capital of the World® - Nestled in the thick of the Northern-Highland American Legion State Forest, Boulder Junction is widely known as one of the best places on earth to catch a trophy-sized muskellunge. In this classic Northwoods community you'll find 194 lakes within a

ten-mile radius that give musky anglers a variety of options, from small, undeveloped lakes to 3,800-acre Trout Lake. The area also boasts some of the best walleye, bass and panfish angling in the Midwest. Add in the spectacular Northwoods scenery and you have the perfect fishing destination.

While Boulder Junction is known for its fishing, it is quickly becoming one of the top destinations in the state for bicycling. Since 1994, Boulder Junction

has been home to the Heart of Vilas County Bike Trail. The trail began as just a short loop around the baseball park, located off Hwy. M behind the Boulder Junction Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center. Over the past several years the trail has expanded to nearly 50-miles, connecting Boulder Junction with Manitowish Waters (west) and Sayner and St. Germain (south). The Heart of Vilas County Bike Trail is fully paved and appropriate for all types of

bicycles. The system includes the popular Crystal Lake Trail, which runs from downtown Boulder Junction past Trout Lake to the Crystal Lake Campground, where you'll find a picnic area and beach. The new west portion of the trail is host to multiple scenic bridges and crosses over the rapids of the Manitowish River and Rice Creek. Also along this part of the trail system is Nichols Beach, a great place for picnick-

See SPOTLIGHT... page 46

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SPOTLIGHT

From page 44

ing and swimming.

Camping, resorts and motels along the trail and throughout the Boulder Junction area, offer the classic Northwoods experience. Peaceful seclusion at a campsite, a lake front cabin, a family friendly resort, a vacation home tucked deep in the woods or a motel close to restaurants and shops are just some of the lodging options for your next trip to Boulder Junction.

Spending the day in downtown Boulder Junction is like taking a step back in time while enjoying all the amenities of today. Many have said that Main Street Boulder Junction is like a Norman Rockwell picture. Main Street is lined with ma and pa businesses. Sporting goods and bait, groceries, one of a kind art, clothing, jewelry and many other special treasures can be found while shopping in downtown Boulder Junction. When hunger strikes, a variety of places to eat are easy to find. Sit back and relax at a classic Boulder Junction supper club. Head to one of the friendly Boulder Junction bars or taverns for an enjoyable night out. You'll find friendly places to grab a burger as well as places where you can enjoy a romantic dinner. In the morning, grab a hearty breakfast or a cup of coffee and baked good. For your convenience, many businesses offer WiFi free access. Wherever you go, you'll find the warmth and hospitality that Boulder Junction is known for.

Throughout the year, Boulder Junction hosts a variety of events – festivals, flea markets, live outdoor music performances, wine tastings, cookouts, races and family friendly gatherings. The biggest event of the year is the Musky Jamboree, celebrating the mighty musky in the Musky Capital of the World®. Musky Jamboree is a three day festival with live music, fireworks, historical play, polka party, arts and crafts show, car show, 5k and 10k run, flea market, kids casting contest and lots of food and drink.

When visiting the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest, be sure to include Boulder Junction in your experience. For more information on the area contact our helpful staff at the Boulder Junction Chamber of Commerce at 1-800-GO-MUSKY or visit boulderjct.org. In Boulder Junction, we're bringing classic back.



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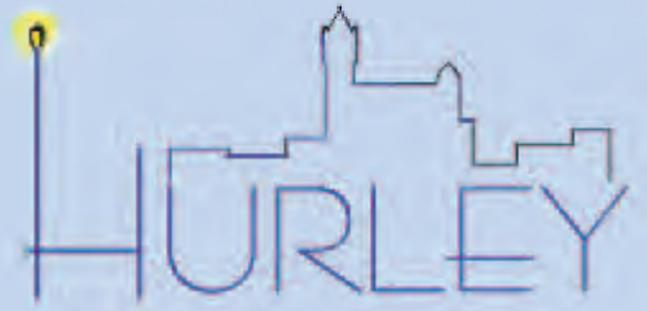
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