



CONNECTIONS

www.northerngreatlakescenter.org

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For meeting rooms and reservations at the Center call the Center Reception Desk at 715-685-9983

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Fourth Annual Spring Raptor Migration Program

The spring raptor migration is in full swing. The unique configuration of land and water at the head of Chequamegon Bay funnels high concentrations of birds of prey here during their spring migration. The Center's Tower provides an excellent observation platform to watch the flight.



Come see our current Center's raptor counts in the Tower.

This year, hawk counter, Tim Oksiuta is managing the survey. The count starts in March with the arrival of the first bald eagles, followed by red-tailed and rough-legged hawks, and ends in early May with broad-winged hawks.

On Saturday, April 20th, the *March for the Parks Program* sponsored by the National Park Service raised over \$500 to support the raptor watch program. Participants walked around the Center's Boardwalk and were treated to a program with a live falcon.

Hawk watching can be good any day when there is a south wind and there is no precipitation. Best viewing times are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you need binoculars, you can check them out from the staff at the Center's Front Desk. The Center is open seven days a week.

Thank You, Xcel Energy

Thanks to Xcel Energy for funding the purchase of a new kayak trailer for the Center. The new trailer will provide for the safer and easier transport of the Center's fleet of 7, double-seat kayaks.

UW-Extension Expands Kayak Ed-Venture Program

Groups reserving kayak programs for summer 2002 may choose from a variety of educational focus options. Topics include: *Aliens and Allies* (Plant Diversity); *The Food That Grows on Water* (Ojibwe Migration, Cultural and Ecological Importance of Wild Rice); *Secrets of the Sloughs* (Bird Diversity and Secretive Birds of Coastal Wetlands and Estuaries); *Art and Soul* (Time to Observe, Photograph, Draw, Paint, and/or Write); and *Fish Paradise?* (Aquatic Macroinvertebrates, Fish Reproduction in Estuaries and Streams).

Groups may also request an *Estuary Exploration* that capitalizes on whatever nature has to offer that day. Call the UW-Extension Office for details and to make reservations (715) 685-2670.

New Management for Center Store

The Friends of the Center recently purchased the *Spirit of the North Store*. The new ownership permits faster ordering of stock to better match and support educational programs at the Center. In addition, the Friends plan to work closer with the area arts community to display and sell local area artist's work. Stop in and see the changes.

E-mail Program Reminders

If you would like to be notified about upcoming Center programs by e-mail, just fill out the form in this newsletter and send it to us. For every public program we will e-mail the description, time, date, and place one week before the program is to be held.

"Kid's Fishing Day"



There's really nothing to match the excitement of that first fish tugging on your line! You have to feel it for yourself!

If you want to learn about fish, where they live, how to catch them, and how to cast, come join us for "Kid's Fishing Day". You will get personal attention from experienced anglers and biologists, who will share their fishing tips and techniques! Give us 60 minutes and we'll teach you how to catch your first fish!

If you are between the ages of 5-12, ask mom, dad, or a friend to bring you to the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center on Saturday, June 1, 2002, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. New classes begin every ten minutes. Everyone will learn about fish and how to catch them...guaranteed! This event is FREE and it's FUN! Program participants will receive fishing lures and other fun prizes.

Tune to 1610 AM

The Center's 1610 AM radio station is updated weekly to provide you with information about Center programs and events. If you live in the Ashland or Washburn area or passing through, tune into 1610 AM to find out what is happening at the Center for the coming week.

Chequamegon Bay Rendezvous

The 6th Annual Chequamegon Bay Rendezvous will be held on June 22-23, 2002, at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. This event is sponsored by the Northern Wisconsin Heritage Connection.

This "show and tell" event is a gathering of historic traders, native people, voyageurs and families. The encampment will include historically accurate demonstrations of life during the fur-trading era in this region (1650's–1850).



The Wisconsin Historical Society resource consultants, Steve Cotherman and Linda Mittlestadt, are assisting with the Rendezvous planning and coordinating programs at the Center during the event. Steve will present a program on Saturday morning, June 22nd, at 10:30 a.m. entitled, "When Cultures Meet: An Interactive Fur Trade Program for Kids and Their Families." A program by Al Luukkonen, "Tools of the Trade" will be presented in the Center's Auditorium at 1 p.m.

The Rendezvous is open to the public on June 22nd from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on June 23rd. A \$3.00 donation is suggested to cover costs of the event.

Demonstrator's Wanted



Are you a quilter, basket maker, fly tier, wood carver, snowshoe maker, or, in short, do you have a traditional skill that you would be willing to share with our visitors?

On selected weekends this summer, the Center will set up a demonstration area in a high traffic part of the Center highlighting a specific skill such as woodcarving. A woodcarver would then demonstrate his or her skill and answer questions and interact with visitors. If you have a skill that you would like to demonstrate at the Center or know of someone that does, please contact Susan Nelson at the Center at 685-2644.