By Susan Thorn

The Cable Natural History Museum has achieved accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), the highest national recognition afforded our nation's museums. Accreditation signifies excellence, accountability, high professional standards, and continued institutional improvement to the museum community, to governments, funders, outside agencies, and to the museum-going public.

It was 1991 when the Museum’s first adopted strategic plan implemented the words “working towards accreditation.” Historical letter documentation shows that the Museum’s benefactor and founder, Mary Griggs Burke, actually discussed seeking accreditation in 1981 in a letter to family member Ted Griggs.

“The process of becoming accredited was amazing,” said Museum Director Deb Nelson. “We learned so much about ourselves—we developed a clearer sense of purpose and understanding of our museum’s strengths, goals, priorities and mission. Our museum has benefited from both the process and the status of becoming an accredited museum.”

In order to achieve this status, the Museum has to be open to the public at least 1,000 hours per year, use and interpret objects for the public presentation of regularly scheduled programs and exhibits, have a program of documentation, care, and use of collections and/or objects, have accessioned 80 percent of its permanent collection, successfully completed a set of core documents designed as policies for operation, and demonstrated it meets the Characteristics of Excellence for U.S. Museums. Of the nation’s estimated 35,000 museums, over 1,000 are currently accredited. The Cable Natural History Museum is one of only 20 museums accredited in Wisconsin.

“Accredited museums are a community of institutions that have chosen to hold themselves publicly accountable to excellence,” said Laura L. Lott, Alliance president and CEO. “Accreditation is clearly a significant achievement, of which both the institutions and the communities they serve can be extremely proud.”

Our Museum was recognized by Wisconsin Trails in the Magazine’s “Best of Wisconsin 2002” list as the “Most Ambitious Little Museum with a Big Agenda.” A recent reviewer of our 2012 Institute of Museum and Library Services’ Museums for America grant stated, “From reading this proposal, my impression is one of a ‘small but mighty’ institution.”

Reaching accreditation is a part of a thirty-five year journey and pathway to success that these quotes confirm. We would like to thank all of our members, Board members, current and previous staff, regional schools, funders, and donors for being a part of this accomplishment. We are ambitious and mighty because of all you have given us!

P.S. Yee hah! Woo hoo! Hooray! Celebrate good times! Fabulous! Awesome! Fantastic! Whoo-Cooks-for-You-All! Howling goodness! Super! We did it!

Emily Stone’s first book, *Natural Connections: Exploring Northwoods Nature through Science and Your Senses*, is here! It is a compilation of her favorite Natural Connections articles from 2011-2013, with illustrations by kids and community members. You can purchase your copy at the Museum Shop or at www.cablemuseum.org. Due to the incredible generosity of underwriters and donors, the printing costs are covered and ALL proceeds from the book will go to support children’s nature education at the Museum! Emily is available for book signings, book readings, and presentations based on the book.
Thank You Volunteers!


Liz Aase
Craig Aase
Deanne Allen
Ron Anderson
Patty Anderson
Betty Avant
Larry Baldus
Dorothy Behling
Chuck Behling
Ron Borgen
Irv Berlin
Jan Berlin
Marsha Besch
Bob Besch
Sarah Boles
Joe Brady
Jim Braeken
Sylvi Braeken
Margie Braun
Brenda Brueske
Ron Caple
Jack Carlson
Kathy Carlson
Gary Crandall
Jim Crandall
Mini Crandall
Michelle Simone
Debbie Detzner
Kristin Dew
Anne Donahue
Nancy Douglas
Carol Elliker
Charlie Evenson
Jeanine Evenson
Back Foot
Joan Foot
Chris Frasch
Alice Hack
Katie Hancock
John Hand
Susan Hand
Vivianne Hanke
Larry Hanke
Bill Hannaford
Gretchen Hannaford
Jean Hansen
Larry Hanson
Teri Hanson
Cari Hartman
Joanne Hesse
Barb Howe
John Hughes
Mark Jansen
Michaeline Jansen
Phil Jensen
Kathi Jensen
Tom Johnson
Barbara Johnson
Liz Johnson
Ed Johnston
Jodi Kingdon
Tom Kraemer
Diane Kraemer
Mollie Kreb
John Kialas
Chris Lindsey
Jacque Lindskoog
Lenora Ludzak
Gretchen MacCarty
Dan Malesevich
Jane Mandi
Tom Matthea
Metro Maznio

Museum Happenings

#FUNologyCNHM

Have you had any FUNology this summer? With the success of our new “Nature’s Calendar” exhibit all about phenology (the study of when specific events happen in nature from year to year in a specific place), we’ve been paying special attention to seasonal changes in nature. You can get involved, too!

Use the #FUNologyCNHM hashtag on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram to tag photos of seasonal things and join the project. You can also visit the Nature’s Calendar Phenology Project by visiting the Museum’s website and looking under Get Involved>Citizen Science. There you’ll find links to virtual phenology hikes on the Forest Lodge Nature Trail that let you experience a beautiful place in every season, as well as instructions on uploading observations to iNaturalist. iNaturalist is a global database of nature observations that helps citizens and scientists alike learn about the health of our ecosystems.

In addition, the Museum published a phenology journal this summer. This 5-year diary allows you to write down seasonal events and easily compare their timing from year to year. It is available for purchase in the Museum Shop. As fall approaches, this is the perfect time to get involved with some FUNology!

Wisconsin Master Naturalist Training Program

The mission of the Wisconsin Master Naturalist Program is to promote awareness, understanding, and stewardship of the state’s natural resources by developing a network of well-informed volunteers dedicated to education and service within their Wisconsin communities. It is a great way to increase your knowledge of Wisconsin’s natural and cultural history; improve your ability to share this knowledge with a wide range of audiences; and develop your ability as a steward of the land. Participants who successfully complete the program will become part of a network of Master Naturalist volunteers, supported by resources and coordination through a statewide office.

The Museum hosted its fourth Master Naturalist course this June, in partnership with Becky Sapper, UW-Extension, and with the help of many local natural resource professionals. From geologizing with Prof. Tom Fitz, to bird banding with Jim Bryce, and kayaking with educators from the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve, Master Naturalist students had amazing opportunities for hands-on learning with a variety of experts.

One student remarked in their evaluation: “Course content exceeded my expectations. The variety and scope of activities and information presented in the classroom, during field trips, and through hands on activities led by Becky & Emily and guest instructors was of a scope and depth that was truly amazing.”

Now, those students will contribute to the Museum, their home communities, and the natural world by giving 40 hours of volunteer service each year. Look for Master Naturalist instructors on the Museum’s Fall Calendar of Events! If you’d like to learn more, visit www.wimasternaturalist.org.

New Exhibit Planned to Celebrate the Museum’s 50th Anniversary

Planning for our 2017 exhibit is already in the works, and ideas for a two-parted focus are flowing. The theme will be “nature’s teamwork,” and the science portion of the exhibit will highlight ways that members of natural communities work together to survive. The second half of the exhibit will celebrate all the ways that the human community has come together to make the Museum what it is today. This means that we’ll honor Mary Griggs Burke’s role as visionary and founder; Lois Nestel’s early leadership; and the recent contributions of our volunteers and partners.

You can help! We’re collecting stories and memories about the Museum and its history. This information will help us craft exhibit displays and themes. We’re also asking people to make audio recordings of their memories, so that exhibit visitors can hear for themselves what makes the Museum special. We’d love to have your story, too! Just stop by the Museum anytime during our regular hours, and we’ll help you make a quick and painless audio recording. We’re also looking for a team of dedicated exhibit committee members to help with the planning. Contact emily@cablemuseum.org if you’d like to get involved.

The Nature’s Calendar Phenology Journal includes an introduction by Naturalist Emily Stone, and space to record your daily observations for five years.
Thank You Volunteers!

Colleen McIntyre
Bill McKinney
Beda McKinney
Stacey McKinney
Marge Mergen
Jim Miller
Anne Miller
Craig Miller
Rita Miller
Peg Moreland
Kerry Myhra
Gary Nei
Pris Nei
David Nelson
Robin Nelson
Bev Nelson
Brad Nelson
Susan Nymo
Ralph Owen
Carolyn Owen
Jan Paulik
Skip Perkins
Arlyn Posekany
Donna Post
Andy Post
Deb Pyne
Sara Qualey
John Radloff
Diana Randolph
Kelly Randolph
Bob Rasmussen
Hans Rasmussen
Tom Rowley
Judy Rowley
Sharon Schauer
Lisa Schaugnessy
Nancy Schemensky
Patsy Schroeder
JoAnne Schultz
Larry Stone
Margaret Stone
Julie Stratton
Sue Thurn
John Uffenbeck
Carol Werner
Don White
Tom Williams
Adrian Wydeven
Ned Zuehdorff
Kathy Zuehdorff

Did you know that wood frogs hold their pee all autumn in order to survive the winter? Or that female hummingbirds scare the males off flowers? Or that weasels do a crazy dance to distract their prey?

Well, if you were one of the almost 500 K-4th graders who attended our field trips this year, you would! These students had a blast learning about various phenological events in the lives of local animals through a skit, active games, and an exhibit exploration.

One teacher remarked on her evaluation, “The lessons were very well planned and kept the students engaged. Wonderful pacing from activities to instructional times. Connected to classroom concepts as well. Thanks for the wealth of information!”

Another teacher added this extra note, “Your staff was engaging, enthusiastic, well-prepared and knowledgeable. Thank you for a such a positive learning experience.” We truly appreciate this positive feedback from the adults, but I think my favorite comment was from a student’s thank you note: “It was not even boring.” You're welcome, Shane, we're so glad you find nature as exciting as we do!

Benefit Events

• Glitz, Glamour & Gangsters!
Thank you for making the Cable Natural History Museum Summer Benefit such a fun evening and meet its goal to raise nearly $35,000! The auction was a great success and the stormy weather that was predicted kept to a brief rain. Everyone was dolled up in 20’s garb and danced to fantastic music by The Gatsby Gang among the backdrop of a glitzy 1920’s Prohibition Club. Thank you to all our fabulous volunteers for their time and talents in pulling off another year!

• New Fundraiser for Exhibit Development
This new event to support exhibit development replaces the previous Power of the Purse Fundraiser. Join us Thursday, October 6, 2016 at the Cable Community Centre for its first year as Force for Nature Presents: Trivia Night! Buffet dinner, cash bar, and a small auction are included in the evening as tables of 8 will compete at Trivia. Sign your business up to be represented that evening! If you don’t have a team we can place you on a winning team! Fee is $40 per person. Call to register. Next year will have a different format – so check back to see what we have planned and support exhibit development at the Museum!

Junior Naturalists

The Junior Naturalist program has had another fun and eventful season. This summertime environmental education program, running late June through the end of July, hosts local and visiting children in grades K-6 for games, crafts, learning, and outdoor exploration. Varying themes allow for introductions to the world of plants, animals, natural elements, and human activity. The season kicked off with children exploring signs of animals and building a tree. The group’s tree was used for the CNHM’s Junior Naturalist parade float, which focused on seasonal change through decorations, costumes, and a fun chant created by volunteer Donna Post.

Other programs included nature art, a deer survival game, a trip to the Cable Community Farm, meeting nature’s recyclers, and handling the Museum’s resident snake. The program was led this season by Summer Naturalist Interns Julie Stratton and Mollie Kreb. In addition, Junior Naturalists were fortunate to have guest educators working with the Cable Community Farm, the fish crew of the Wisconsin DNR, and a wildlife biologist working for the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. All this is made possible by support from community members and Xcel Energy, which granted $1,500 to the Museum to continue with Junior Naturalist programming. We send our thanks to everybody involved and hope for many years to come.
FLIP Weathers a Last Minute Change
By Emily Stone, Naturalist/Education Director

Now, in the fifth year of our “Paddle the Namekagon River” two-night canoe trip for 12-18 year olds, we have some devoted followers. Returning participants tell me that they look forward to this trip all year, and younger siblings and friends have grown into the ranks as well. So you can imagine everyone’s dismay when the night before our launch day we received more than 10 inches of rain. First, I persuaded panicked parents that there was no way I would be paddling the river, much less taking their children down the torrent. Then, we had to come up with a new plan. I suggested a shorter trip, and the boys exclaimed in disappointment. They wanted their full two nights of adventure! So we settled on Plan B: the Namakagon Lake campground. Finally, when washed-out roads blocked our way, we landed on Plan C: Two Lakes Campground on Lake Owen. The boys had a blast. You can read more about the trip on the Natural Connections blog.

The torrential rains affected more than just the canoe trip, though. All three of our FLIP programs involve the Namekagon River. We still met the WI DNR biologists to do electroshocking of fish in Cap Creek, but we didn’t find nearly as many fish as last year. They got washed downstream! Finally, our snorkeling adventure, once planned for just below the Namekagon Dam, was moved to the shallower water of Philippi Landing. Despite the setbacks, everyone still had a great time.

I’m happy to see these students are so resilient and flexible in the face of weather-related challenges. In this crazy world we’ve created for them, those adaptation skills will only become more necessary! ☺

Thanks to Aaron Ackley!

The Museum had some extra helping hands this summer! Aaron Ackley, a local high schooler, arrived here each week to assist with the Junior Naturalist program, raptor duties, and offered assistance with various office tasks. Aaron was placed here for work through the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation’s (DVR) Summer Youth Employment Program, as a means to gain employment experience to build good habits and skills. The Museum was fortunate to have his positive attitude and good work ethic around, and we wish him the very best as he pursues future employment endeavors. ☺

The White Pine Society

In 1967, almost 50 years ago, Mrs. Mary Griggs Burke founded the Cable Natural History Museum “to awaken in the people who live in (and visit) this area an appreciation of what they have which is unique—beautiful natural surroundings, clean air to breathe, silence to listen to and the chance to learn the ways of the world’s creatures.” She and other farsighted lovers of the north woods knew that this museum would grow and prosper only if it were financially secure—only if they and future members helped ensure its well-being. Since then, many others have confirmed this important tradition, enabling the Museum to provide the next generation with the opportunity to learn about, to appreciate, and to enjoy the gifts of our beautiful natural environment.

Becoming a member of the White Pine Society by remembering the Museum in your will or trust is an easy way to create a legacy for your children and grandchildren while keeping the use of your assets during your lifetime. Please contact Deb Nelson, Museum Director, to discuss the possibilities.

Thank you to current White Pine Society Members who have made a commitment to the Cable Natural History Museum through a legacy that will continue to support our efforts to connect people to Northwoods nature through educational experiences that inspire wonder, discovery and responsibility. ☺

WHITE PINE SOCIETY MEMBERS
William & Betty Nemec
Ron & Patty Anderson
Gordon & Barbara Bauman
Jodi Kingdon
Edward J. Labedz
Richard & Audrey Beckman Divibiss
Jerome Blank & Joann Greb
Thomas Van Housen
Larry & Vivianne Hanke
Joanne Cleary
Welcome to Haley Appleman, Our New Naturalist!

The Cable Natural History Museum welcomes Haley Appleman to the staff as our newest naturalist. Haley writes:

“The moment I heard a loon’s tremolo through my bedroom window as it echoed across Lake Namakagon, I knew I had made the right decision to move to Cable. My first few days at the Museum were hectic; I plunged head-first into the new job with raptor handling on Day 1 and presenting an off-site raptor program on Day 2. I felt a little overwhelmed. Luckily that loon reminded me of the peace I find in the Northwoods and how I ended up here. Since high school I planned on becoming a zookeeper, but a naturalist internship a few years ago introduced me to a new passion. While many zoos focus on global issues, I am inspired by a naturalist’s ability to make meaningful connections between people and their own back yards.

“The naturalist position at the Museum allows me to mix my two passions: caring for animals and teaching with them. I am spending time getting to know our raptors and using tasty meat treats to build trust between us. We are also busy with programming. In my first month here, the birds and I reached over 350 people at the Museum and in the community. It is amazing to see audience members connect with a live animal and feel inspired to help wild raptors. I can’t wait to share my love of raptors and the Northwoods with more of the Cable community!”

Living Collections Update

By Haley Appleman

One of the unique challenges to maintaining a living collection at the Museum is the live birds’ ability to decide when they want to participate. Our birds have been doing programs for a few years, but they might not be willing to offer that same behavior when a new trainer—a complete stranger—walk into the mew. Their willingness to step onto my thick leather handling glove depends on the level of trust between us and, when I started in July, they didn’t know what to think of me.

I focused on making positive interactions with the birds by hand-feeding desirable pieces of mouse or quail. But I can’t rely on food alone to build our relationship. It is important to be calm, patient, and honest so they know what to expect when I walk into the mew. Their willingness to step onto my thick leather handling glove depends on the level of trust between us and, when I started in July, they didn’t know what to think of me.

I started daily training sessions with Carson (red-tailed hawk) to increase her comfort with me and the glove at her own pace. When we have a strong relationship, she will be excited to hop on the glove rather than avoid it. I will inevitably have to take withdrawals from our trust account, like restraining her for annual health check-ups, but we should have enough positive interactions built up that she will still recognize me as someone she can trust. Building these relationships between animal and trainer is incredibly rewarding, especially with the birds that really make you work for it.”

CNHM Staff

Deb Nelson
Museum Director
Leslie Strapon
Assistant Director
Emily Stone
Naturalist/Education Director
Haley Appleman
Naturalist
Jayme Morey
Living Collections Assistant
John Kudlas
Collections Monitor
Beda McKinney
Volunteer Coordinator
Mimi Crandall
Shop Coordinator
Jane Weber
Museum Mobile Educator
Sue Thurn
Summer Teacher Naturalist
Mollie Kreb
Summer Naturalist Intern
Julie Stratton
Summer Naturalist Intern

2016 CNHM
Board of Directors
Anne Miller, Chair
Marsha Besch, Vice Chair
Thomas Johnson, Treasurer
Stacey McKinney, Secretary
Elizabeth Aase
Patty Anderson
Joe Brady
Ron Caple
Jack A. Carlson
John Hand
Bill Hannaford
Larry Hanson
Kathie Jensen
Liz Johnson
Ed Johnston
Tom Matthiae
Pris Nei
Carolyn Owen
Deb Pyne

KING REALTY

Bill King, Owner/Broker
Cable, Wisconsin
Phone: (715) 798-5400
www.upnorthrealty.com

JOHNSON BANK

MEMBER JOHNSON INTERNATIONAL
an SC Johnson family company

Norvado
Powered by CheqTel

Phone: (715) 798-3303
Toll Free: (800) 250-8927

43705 US Hwy 63 in Cable
1310 E. Lakeshore Dr. in Ashland
15861 West 3rd St in Hayward
Julie Stratton, Summer Naturalist Intern

It wasn’t difficult for Julie Stratton to leave Door County when she found out she was headed for her beloved Wisconsin Northwoods in Cable, home of the CNHM. After a long stretch of child-raising, Environmental Degree-acquiring from Purdue University and summer-naturalist work, she enthusiastically jumped in as an intern this summer, with a goal to provide nature inspiration to all. Julie shared her love of trees with the Jr. Naturalists and created programs on Lois Nestel and Geocaching. Double-tasking, Julie also interned with the Cable Community Farm, continuing into the fall, as she plans more adventures while providing extension classes at LCO Community College and serving as the Barnes Community Church secretary. Julie adores her new bike route around Lake Namakagon and hiking to Rock Lake to take a refreshing dip.

Mollie Kreb, Summer Naturalist Intern

Mollie is a recent graduate from Northland College, with a degree in Outdoor and Environmental Education with an emphasis in Natural History and Interpretation. She hails from Stevens Point in central Wisconsin, where she cultivated her passion for the natural world through childhood exploration of the surrounding lands, which often included skiing and walking along miles of the Green Circle Trail.

She joined the Cable Natural History Museum last summer and eagerly returned for another season. Mollie plans to use her internship experience as a means to further her skills as a teacher and as steward of the natural world, as well as to experience the pleasure of working with children as they enjoy time with each other and the outdoors. Her other passions include studying art history and Ojibwe culture, drawing and crafting, and learning as much as possible about local plant communities. She hopes that her connections with the Museum offer a platform to further pursue such interests. Continuing into autumn, Mollie plans to secure a position with an organization of comparable spirit in order to exercise her role as educator.
Enhancing Natural Play

By Susan Thurn

Climb on rocks and logs, play in the Grandmother Treehouse, and build fairy houses in the fairy village. These are just some of the activities for families at the Museum’s Wayside Wanderings Natural Play Area. This year over 70 family participants discovered the play area through Playgroups offered by Museum staff. In fact, we celebrated the Third Annual Fairy Festival this summer with over 30 children and parents who built fairy homes for the Festival.

Now, members of the Play Area can enjoy free access to the site whenever it is convenient for them. All it takes to become a member is reading a brochure and having every participant sign a release of liability waiver that the Cable Natural History Museum provides. Play Area Membership is free and open to the public.

At the Play Area, participants can play in the Little House in the Big Woods and act out their own pioneer adventure. They can read stories or use nature guides from the Little Library, pretend they are a spider in a spider web, look for salamanders in the Salamander Room, or run up the Skyway of logs. Plans for fundraising and building are now underway to build a slide that follows the natural contours of a hill on the property. The Museum’s mission at the Play Area is to connect children and families to nature in the Northwoods through free play experiences that inspire wonder, discovery, and responsibility. The Natural Play Area can be found in downtown Cable at 43135 Randysek Road.

According to our Education Director, Emily Stone, “Unstructured nature play encourages children to learn about the wonders and secrets of the natural world, and inspires creative play that can increase social development, promote healthy lifestyles and enhance academic achievement.”

Volunteer Voice

By Phil and Kathi Jensen

Aldo Leopold noted in his epic Sand County Almanac, “There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot.” As long as we can remember, we cannot! From our early scouting experiences to adult wilderness travel, wild things and nature were always a must on our calendar.

Fortunately for us and the community, the Cable Natural History Museum is the perfect answer for both children and adults to get in touch with wild things. We had been visitors for the past twenty years and are now active volunteers (separately and together) since we retired five years ago.

The opportunities for retirees to dust off old skills, connect socially, and learn something new are endless. We have enjoyed docenting, taking classes, building furniture and the raptor mews, painting walls, hosting lecturers, and doing various committee work. Our eleven grandchildren are always entertained by the exhibits as well as the gift shop. Attending a wolf howl program and hearing a full blown wolf chorus in the darkest woods last August was one of the best “wild things” we have ever experienced.

Although it is the 100th Anniversary of our National Parks, most are miles away. How lucky we are to have this crown jewel in our own backyard. We are so proud that our newly accredited Cable Natural History Museum is celebrating its 50th Anniversary next year and will continue to provide “wild things” into the future.
In addition to supporting the work of the Cable Natural History Museum, Museum members enjoy a variety of benefits, including:

- Free admission to our collections and exhibits
- Reduced rates for participation in our nature and education programs
- Receive the Museum Messenger twice a year
- 10% discounts in the Museum Shop
- Opportunities for Museum Naturalist-led programs for your special family events

To become a member of the Cable Natural History Museum visit cablemuseum.org/membership, call 715-798-3890 or complete and mail the form at the right to CNHM, P.O. Box 416, Cable, WI 54821