A Board of Directors with a Passion

By Deb Nelson, Museum Director

Working hard for something we don't care about is called stress. Working hard for something we love is called PASSION!

Since 2007, I've gone from being the Cable Natural History Museum’s “mail opener” to being the Museum Director. During that time, I have been honored to work with the Museum’s Board of Directors. They listen, support, advise, direct, balance the budget, make donations, attend meetings, paint, build exhibits, chair committees and events, stuff envelopes, docent, decorate for events, pull weeds, and help in so many ways. They have a passion for the Museum!

An active Board enables the Museum’s success. Our board members donate their valuable time to advocate for the important role the Museum plays in connecting people to Northwoods nature. They help secure the resources and set the policies needed to provide innovative and high-quality programs. Our Board has helped guide the Museum through exciting and challenging times. Their varied talents and networks of contacts from diverse backgrounds have helped the Museum grow.

Each of our board members brings unique abilities and perspectives—they are connected to our community, representative of our members, and truly want to help our organization succeed. Our Board Chair, Anne Miller, founded the Benefactors Circle. Bill McKinney, Larry Hanson, Ed Johnston, Joe Brady and Tom Matthiae build exhibits and raptor mews, replace light bulbs, and even fix toilets and sinks. Tom Johnson and Stacey McKinney monitor the budget and investments. Pris Nei, Carolyn Owen, and Liz Aase organize events and spread glitter. Patty Anderson, Marsha Besch, and Deb Pyne work with the staff to develop programs, exhibits, and complete our Museum accreditation process. Mimi Crandall and John Hand develop awesome brochures and marketing tools to attract our members and visitors. Jack Carlson handles all our legal questions and concerns, and Ron Caple supports our Dinner Lecture series.

When one of the Directors walks in the front door of the Museum, they don’t trigger anxiety among the staff. Instead, there are friendly smiles, ideas shared, and support offered. They ask “How can we accomplish this?” instead of demanding “You need to do this.” I am hugely grateful for the amazing team of directors and staff who work together for the common good of the Museum and the Cable community.
Museum Happenings

Youth Book Illustration and Cover Art Contests

The Cable Natural History Museum is hosting two art contests to encourage a connection between literacy, nature, and art.

Cable Natural History Museum Naturalist/Education Director Emily Stone is publishing a book of her popular weekly newspaper articles as a fundraiser for youth programming at the Museum. Since both students and artists in the community often inspire and encourage her writing, and because we would like to involve the community in this project, the Museum is conducting art contests both to adorn the book’s cover and to illustrate each of its 52+ chapters. The hope is that local students and artists will take the opportunity to read some articles, learn something about the plants and animals in those chapters, and then create an illustration based on what they’ve learned. The best and most relevant illustration for each chapter will be included in the book. Our cover designer will incorporate the winning cover art into the overall book cover design. Entries for either contest must be postmarked by December 31, 2015.

Entry forms and more information can be found at: http://cablemuseum.org/programs-and-events/.

Double the Fun! Comedy Night and Power of the Purse

The Cable Natural History Museum held two fun-filled events the first weekend of October. Together they generated over $12,000 for exhibit development! Both featured Lorna Landvik, a nationally acclaimed author of 10 novels, an actress, stand-up comic, and playwright.

The weekend kicked off with Comedy Night on October 2, at Mooselips in Seeley. One hundred Museum supporters socialized and sampled appetizers before Landvik presented her all-improv, one-woman show, “Party at Mooselips.” The theater was filled with laughter as the audience provided input for Lorna’s wildly diverse cast of stage characters.

The sixth annual Power of the Purse auction and brunch followed on Saturday, October 3, at Lakewoods Resort in Cable. The setting, overlooking Lake Namekagon and decorated with dried floral arrangements by Bev Nelson and Carolyn Owen, provided the backdrop, while women enjoyed mimosas and spirited bidding on purses, accessories, and gifts for their guys. Landvik provided post-brunch entertainment and talked about her newest book, Best to Laugh.

Thanks to Sharon Hendry and Anne Miller for organizing Comedy Night, Liz Aase and her committee for another successful Power of the Purse, and Redbery Books for donating book sale proceeds to the Museum. Thank you to the owners of Mooselips and Lakewoods, (two great venues!) our business sponsors, all who attended, and those who donated to the auction.

The Cable Natural History Museum depends on memberships, donations, and fundraisers such as these. Your support ensures the continued success of our educational mission!

Golf Classic Continues to be a Hit

The Golf Classic continues to be a successful fundraiser for the Museum, thanks to the hospitality of Dr. Tim and Julie Louis and to the efforts of Deb and Leslie and the Museum staff and volunteers. The weather is always an unknown. This year, it was near perfect for mid-September—temperatures in the mid-seventies with barely a cloud in the sky. The number of players is gradually increasing — 43 this year, several of them new to the event. Thirty-two participants registered as individuals. Local businesses sponsored the registrations of 11 additional players. Business sponsors included: American Birkebeiner, Hayward Community Credit Union, King Realty, Lakewoods Resort, Norvado, and State Bank of Drummond. The event generated revenues of $10,325. The 2016 golf event will take place on Wednesday, September 14. Mark your calendars!
Museum Happenings

Mushrooms!
By Emily Stone, Education Director

As the Museum gears up to help host the North American Mycological Association’s Annual Foray in September 2017, we are incorporating more mushroom programming into our calendar of events. This past Labor Day weekend, we co-hosted the Bayfield County Mushroom Foray with the Wisconsin and Minnesota Mycological Societies. The public was encouraged to attend the foray on Saturday, while club members continued foraging on Sunday. More than 50 people attended, and over 240 mushroom species were identified. For perspective, that is a LOT! Several of those species are quite rare or previously unknown in this area.

In November, the Museum helped the Shiitake Growers Association of Wisconsin (SHII-GAW) host a workshop and annual meeting at the Cable Community Centre. Thirty people learned how to cultivate a wide variety of mushrooms under the expert guidance of Joe Krawczyk and Mary Ellen Kozak from Field and Forest Products in Peshtigo, WI, and Tavis Lynch of Cumberland, WI.

Next fall, look for another growing workshop in association with the Bayfield County Foray on September 1-3. If you would like to be put on a “mushroom interest” email list to be reminded of these and other programs, please contact emily@cablemuseum.org.

“Grandma… A Tree House!”
By Deb Nelson, Museum Director

Henry was running full blast down the trail to the tree house at the Museum’s Wayside Wanderings Natural Play Area. Up and down the ladders, sitting at the table pretending to eat cookies and drink juice, sweeping the floor with pine needles, and crawling up the tower to look for dragons. Henry is almost four years old. He only visits “Up North Grandma” a few times a year, so we make the most of our time together playing in the woods.

The Museum’s Natural Play Area is an opportunity for children to create their own imaginative games and activities using natural elements. Over the past two years, the Treehouse, Little House in the Big Woods, Skywalk, Fairy Village, Little Nature Library, and the Woodpecker Tree have been created for families to enjoy. Bring your “Henry” and get dirty! Great nature play doesn’t require elaborate and expensive play spaces. Our mission is to connect children and families to Northwoods nature through free play experiences that inspire wonder, discovery, and responsibility! Thanks to all the dedicated volunteers and Teacher Naturalist Sue Thurn for making this a reality!

This coming spring, we’ll be setting up a free membership system for the Natural Play Area, to make sure that local families have easy access and know the guidelines for safe use. We’ll also be installing even more fun play elements, and hosting regular playgroups through the summer.

New Fundraiser for Exhibit Development

We are creating a new event for this fall to support exhibit development. The Events Committee has been working to develop an event that would retain a certain level of flexibility in its planning to keep this event fresh and fun each year.

Join us Thursday, October 6, 2016 for the first year as Force for Nature Presents: Game Night! Dinner and cash bar are included in the evening as tables will compete at Trivial Pursuit. Next year we will have a new format – so check back and support exhibit development at the Museum.

The treehouse at the Natural Play Area is beautiful at any time of year! Its construction was funded in part by Elliott Ross and Karin Stewart Ross.

Two foray-goers contemplate a pretty orange mushroom.
2015 Summer Benefit was a Blast!

We had a great group of people get their 50’s garb on and enjoy a beautiful evening under the Big Top! The Museum’s largest fundraiser of the year was held Saturday, July 25, 2015, at the old Lake Owen Gym Camp property owned by Steve and Amy Louis. Our auction featured many unique items and experiences that helped us reach our fundraising goal. Folks enjoyed the old 50’s cars and great decor that lent to the atmosphere. The Rockin Hollywoods provided fun tunes that inspired everyone to get out on the floor and cut a rug!!

Closing in on the Collections

We are heading into the home stretch with our Institute of Museum and Library Services, Museums for America Grant. Not long ago, our Museum collections were hidden behind solid wooden doors, and our black bear mount was exposed and frequently petted by curious visitors. Today you can enjoy many new glass cases that allow items to be on display yet remain protected, and you can even access our collections from home through the Virtual Exhibit found on our website.

Only a few items remain to be cataloged, including items that belong to the Museum archives, such as past phenology calendars, slides, photos, newspaper articles, and natural history writings. The few natural history items that need to be cataloged were acquired or created this year. We have caught up!

Boundary Waters Adventure

The second annual Natural History Paddle in the Boundary Waters was a huge success! Six participants, including two Boundary Waters newbies, experienced four days of fun and challenging wilderness travel with Naturalist/Educator Emily Stone. Northern lights, a fish dinner, fantastic campsites and new friends were highlights of the trip. The 2016 Paddle will be held August 23-26. Registration opens January 1, 2016.

A menagerie of new bird taxidermy was created this past summer by Collections Monitor, John Kudlas.

The McIntyre Family really went all-out with their 50’s style costumes. Nice glasses everyone!
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Xcel Energy awards grant to Cable Natural History Museum

The Cable Natural History Museum recently received a $1,500 grant from Xcel Energy to fund the summer Junior Naturalist program. This program offers environmental education for children in grades K-6 through games, art, and outdoor exploration.

This past summer, the Junior Naturalists enjoyed catching aquatic insects in the Namekagon River, meeting Carson the Red-tailed Hawk during a bird program, and exploring the Cable Community Farm. They also watched the fish crew from the Wisconsin DNR electro-shock for fish, and even met a live Big Brown Bat in a program about nocturnal creatures. Over 90 children attended over the summer.

The grant will help support the Junior Naturalist program with program supplies, publicity materials, t-shirts, and staff instruction time for two Naturalist Interns that facilitate the program. This support from Xcel Energy ensures the continuation of these valuable opportunities for education and environmental literacy of children who live in and visit our area.

Living Light Photo Contest Winners

The Living Light Photo Contest continues to get people outdoors connecting with Northwoods Nature.

Eliza Schiradelly won First Place in the child category with her photo, “Good Morning Lake Owen.” Thanks to James Netz Photography for their generous support of this contest!

James Welsch made this photograph, which he titled “Sun Oak,” during a session of the Explorer's Club at the Hayward Library. This summer program series allows local kids to explore the library’s trails and wetlands with Museum Naturalists. Each year one session focuses on nature photography. James won First Place in the teen category.

This beautiful “Secret life of the Lacewing” won Kelly Nechuta First Place in the adult category. In this fourth year of the annual “Living Light Photo Contest,” 21 photographers submitted 40 photos for review.

This year’s Living Light Photo Contest Winners: upper left — “Sun Oak” by James Welsch; lower left — “Secret Life of the Lacewing” by Kelly Nechuta; above — “Good Morning Lake Owen” by Eliza Schiradelly

Thank You Volunteers!

August 1 — Nov. 30, 2015

Tom Rowley
Judy Rowley
Patsy Schroeder
Paulette Smith
Scott Smith
Kellie Solberg
Larry Stone
Margaret Stone
Kathy Teasdale
Jim Teasdale
Sue Thurn
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Liz Usborne
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Naturalist/Curator
Emily Stone
Naturalist/Education Director
Leslie Strapon
Bookkeeper/Office Manager/Events
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Collections Assistant
Jayne Morey
Living Collections Assistant
John Kudlas
Collections Monitor
Beda McKinney
Volunteer Coordinator
Jane Weber
MuseumMobile Educator
Liz Weber
Virtual Exhibit Support
Sue Thurn
Summer Teacher Naturalist

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Exhibit Preview: Phenology

Our 2016 exhibit will take you on a journey through the seasonal changes in the Northwoods, focusing on natural events that can be easily observed by everyone. The study of when specific events happen in nature from year to year is called phenology.

We’re thinking dioramas: realistic displays that will provide an immersion experience through the Northwoods seasons. Our Museum collections contain animals with fur variations between winter and summer, birds seen only during certain times of the year, and plants with differing blooming periods. The exhibit will be a fantastic way to make the collections visible to all!

The importance of this topic is paramount, given the changing climate. This exhibit will hopefully inspire discovery of and responsibility for our natural world, and provide opportunities for visitors to actively engage in the topic through Museum programming and the online phenology website.

If you are interested in being part of the exhibit design and planning, we are still looking for creative and energetic folks to be on the exhibit committee. It’ll be an opportunity to dream big and make a difference in our community!

E-mail elsa@cablemuseum.org with any ideas or interest in being on the committee.

Museum Awarded Besadny Grant

The Cable Natural History Museum was recently awarded a $1,000 grant to develop an interactive phenology component to our website. The phenology component will allow citizens to post phenological observations in the Cable area, such as the date that they saw the first robin for the year or the date of the first frost.

This grant awarded by the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, C.D. Besadny Conservation Grant Program, in tribute to former Department of Natural Resources secretary and Foundation founder C.D. “Buzz” Besadny. The program provides matching grants to organizations in support of projects that promote the responsible stewardship of Wisconsin’s natural resources at the local level. Our summer 2015 naturalist interns, Kellie Solberg and Mollie Kreb, wrote the grant proposal.

In addition, conservation programming and citizen science initiatives will be completed in conjunction with the 2016 exhibit's phenology theme. The impact of climate change on phenology will be addressed, along with calls to action to reduce our personal impacts on the climate. This project will help visitors and residents to apply their knowledge and become stewards of this area and the local environment.
MuseumMobile Update
By Jane Weber, MuseumMobile Educator

The MuseumMobile program is off to another great start, with 10 area schools participating in the program that brings natural history lessons and Museum collections into local classrooms. I am the new Educator, sharing the teaching with Emily Stone, Naturalist/Education Director.

From the very first school I entered, I noticed the powerful effect that the MuseumMobile program has had on the area students. They did not know me as I hauled the teaching tubs into the school, but they did recognize the tubs and quickly asked, “Cable Museum today?” When I replied in the affirmative, their response was always, “YES!!!!!!”

In each classroom, I ask what they remember from the lessons from last year. They not only remember last year, but as I learned from some 5th graders last week, they remember all the way back to kindergarten! This is proof to me, as a retired teacher, that the hands-on, highly interactive lessons of the MuseumMobile program are having a powerful impact on our area students in making them aware of and excited about our natural world. I feel very lucky to be part of this program.

Next Summer Benefit: “Glitz, Glamour & Gangsters!”

Planning is well underway for the Cable Natural History Museum Summer Benefit! If you know the password you’ll have access to our speakeasy and experience the glitz of a 1920’s Prohibition Club. Enjoy jazz music by The Gatsby Gang, some tasty cuisine, and raise some clams for the Museum in the process.

Flapper or Dapper, Moll or Doll…you’re encouraged to dress up. Grab some giggle water, test your luck at our novelty gaming tables and dance to some jake jams…until the feds find us. Put us on your calendar for Saturday, July 23, 2016!

MuseumMobile Educator Jane Weber is a popular visitor to area classrooms.
Go Paperless!

- Help us save resources and printing costs by receiving *The Museum Messenger* by e-mail! Just send a message to info@cablemuseum.org with PAPERLESS in the subject line and we will begin sending you the *Messenger* in PDF format. Please indicate if you would like to receive our program announcements as well.
- Please note that we are now sending out acknowledgement letters for memberships and donations by e-mail instead of by regular mail (unless you do not have an e-mail address) to be more environmentally conscious. Please contact the Museum if we do not have your current e-mail address on file.

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**Membership Form**

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

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**Membership Levels:**

This is a:  
- [ ] New  
- [ ] Renewal  
- [ ] Gift Membership

- [ ] Trillium: $30 to $99
- [ ] Whitetail Deer: $100 to $249
- [ ] Monarch Butterfly: $250 to $499
- [ ] Painted Turtle: $500 to $999
- [ ] Wood Duck: $1000 to $2499
- [ ] Loon: $2500 to $4999
- [ ] Dragonfly: $5000 and above

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**Payment Information:**

- [ ] I would like to give an additional gift of $__________ to the CNHM
- Total enclosed $__________  
- Check #__________  
- [ ] Master Card  
- [ ] Visa

Card Number ____________________________  Security Code __________________

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**THE MUSEUM MESSENGER**

*published for*

Friends of the Cable Natural History Museum

PO Box 416
Cable, WI 54821

**TELEPHONE:** 715-798-3890  **FAX:** 715-798-3828

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