Follow Your Curiosity!

One rainy Saturday morning, a family arrived early, excited to explore the Museum. After handing our docent the Free Family Pass that their oldest had received during a MuseumMobile school visit, they made a beeline for the Curiosity Center. “YAY!” exclaimed their youngest, and there was so much joy in her voice that I couldn’t help but smile. With one word, she’d captured exactly how everyone feels about the brand new kids’ area. We’d like to say a big THANK YOU to all of the donors who made it possible.

Ever since the design process started in 2016, Museum staff have been dreaming about the day we could finally watch kids play and learn in a revitalized Curiosity Center. With the decision to hire KidZibits from St. Paul, MN, to professionally build the new permanent exhibit, our excitement grew. They were great to work with, and we all enjoyed working with their crew.

When the last dustpan was emptied and power tools removed in early May, kids started arriving. They knew exactly what to do. We watched as one after another they ran to the tree trunk, played with the periscope to get a bird’s eye view of the room, climbed the spiral staircase, entered the bird nest, launched Luna the flying squirrel on its zip line, scampered down the ramp, zoomed down the slide, clambered across the climbing wall, and raced back to do it again. We hope that kids will become familiar with the Northwoods in this safe indoor space and then head outdoors in search of new adventures.

As a bonus, clean-up in the New Curiosity Center is a breeze, and all of the surfaces are durable and washable. The structures and raised walkways are built so sturdily that adults can play, too. Come in and see for yourself!

—Emily Stone, Naturalist/Education Director
From the Director

I love working at the Museum! Do I have a professional background in natural history? Not really! I have a degree in Human Services and was an Alcohol and Drug Abuse Coordinator and Career Counselor in a school district for many years. My job description is three pages long but I feel my main responsibility is to keep the ball rolling—financially and operationally! I’m in the office over 40 hours a week and my Museum Director hat does not leave my head—when I can’t sleep I even get up to call myself at the Museum to leave Deb Nelson a message!

The Museum will be looking for a new Director the spring of 2022—I gave my notice this early as I plan to retire after my 70th birthday and want to be mentally prepared to leave. With the way everything is headed, I should be leaving the Museum in a good place. By then, my job description will be reading books on the porch and enjoying being Up North Grandma every single day!

We have accomplished so much in the last nine years—we are an accredited museum (only 3% of museums in the U.S. are accredited by the American Alliance of Museums), we established an Endowment Fund to help with general support, paid off our mortgage, and hired a staff of exceptional women! The new Curiosity Center was professionally built and opened May 1st of this year. Our program income has increased because of evaluation and planning, collections are more accessible and spectacular, exhibits are creative and educational, our animal ambassadors have been strutting their stuff all over Northwestern Wisconsin, and the Summer Benefit is the party of the year! I am a proud Museum Director.

Our members, donors, volunteers, and exceptional Board of Directors have supported the Museum Director’s position for over 52 years. Without their (YOUR) support, we would not be where we are today. Thank you, to all of you, for caring about the Museum as much as I do.

—Deb Nelson, Director

Museum Gift Shop where the uncommon meets nature

Bev’s Top Three
At the Gift Shop, we handpick items to reflect our mission and specialize in earth-friendly and local items. So, choosing favorites to feature can be a challenge. Here are just a few.

—Bev Bauer, Volunteer Shop Manager

Eco Wraps—Made in Superior, WI. “Having these in my kitchen has greatly reduced my use of plastic.”

Warmies—“We carry a number of plush, woodland animals. Adorable, cuddly, and microwaveable.”

Ze Géoanimo Blocks—“Our games and puzzles are always popular with kids and adults. This geometric shapes activity set is one of my favorites.”
Pollinator Power!

Maybe you notice the pollinators visiting your flowers a little differently lately. An extra moment to marvel at a moth. A new notion of a beetle’s benefit. Assessing an assembly of bees on an aster.

Inspiring visitors to think about local pollinators has been the goal of two years of exhibits on the wonder of our native species. While the national news is discussing a decline in honey bees, the Museum’s effort is connecting visitors to the bees (and others) they may have overlooked outside their own doors. It’s our local chapter in nature’s broader story. In 2018, we introduced the lives of our rainbow of native bees: 166 very diverse and amazing species working in our local fields, forests, and farms. And we followed that with a broader recognition of 6 other families of pollinators, an awakening to just how powerful our local pollinators are in our environment.

Responsible for this effort are a group of Museum staff and volunteers, each finding their personal inspiration in the topic. Team members individually research an area for weeks, sharing learnings and collectively determining which ideas should be included in the exhibit. Making this information fun, easy, and impactful for visitors becomes a creative process; a little bit science and a little bit art. And then comes the real art—team members painting and building each feature to bring Northwood’s pollinators to life. In all, each exhibit is the culmination of several months of effort by a dedicated group of 20 or so individuals. And for every new fact a visitor learns, exhibit team members have dozen more facts they could share. So please continue to stop and smell the roses, and while you’re there take notice of the pollinators there with you.

—Travis Cinco, Board of Directors (Exhibit Committee)

The Buzz of Creative Inspiration

It’s not often the Museum has the opportunity to host an art exhibit, but this year’s Bee Inspired Art Show has received a lot of buzz! This past winter we invited artists to submit work that represents native northwestern Wisconsin bees, pollinators and their floral habitat.

We were excited that 31 artists responded from across northwestern Wisconsin, and a few from out of state! A Grand Opening and Artist Reception held Saturday, May 25 gave the public the opportunity to meet the artists and buy their work.

This show was intended to compliment the 2019 exhibit Pollinator Power and to broaden the Museum experience, giving visitors a creative view of nature, provide an opportunity for local artists to support the Museum’s educational mission and to showcase their talent.

The Exhibit will be up through August 24 and all art is for sale with a portion of the proceeds going to benefit the Museum.

—Leslie Strapon, Assistant Director
Specimen Spotlight

Why is a Caribbean resident like this immature American Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinicus*) part of our Northwoods collection?

Intriguingly, the species primarily inhabits freshwater wetlands throughout areas of the Caribbean and parts of Central America—yet it has a documented history of occasional vagrancy to various locations well outside historic distribution. While we aren’t exactly sure why this bird was found along the frozen banks of the St. Louis River in Duluth, Minnesota, we are aware of a few facts thanks to data collected by fellow citizen scientists.

Just 13 days prior to the discovery of this bird’s remains, a live bird was also found near Duluth and rehabilitated in Florida. Previously, only five other observations of the species have been recorded in the state of Minnesota. As we continue to preserve our specimen into the future, we anticipate it will provide valuable insight regarding the unique natural history of this lanky, colorful bird.

—Mollie Kreb, Curator Naturalist

What’s New in the Mew?

Carson the Red-tailed Hawk is an expert at “targeting” by touching her beak to the end of a stick wrapped with blue tape. She loves to run across the mew to her target stick to earn a tasty treat. We recently turned this into a new game to test her color vision.

I made two more target sticks by wrapping one with yellow tape and one in black. I hold all three targets—yellow, black, and blue—in front of Carson and after a moment of contemplation, she selects the blue. I shuffle the colors and try again. She again picks the blue target. We will continue adding colors to see if she can distinguish the blue from a whole rainbow of target sticks!

—Haley Appleman, Naturalist

A variety of animals, including this red fox, have triggered the trail camera at Wayside Wanderings Natural Play Area. The camera was provided by the Wisconsin DNR through the “Snapshot Wisconsin” project, an effort to monitor wildlife populations throughout the state.

You can help the project by identifying photos at: www.snapshotwisconsin.org
What Does Sustainability Mean?

As the Sustainability Intern here at the Museum, it falls within my job description to promote sustainability, especially to our young Junior Naturalists. And while I’m more than happy to do so, it isn’t all that easy to explain. The Meriam-Webster dictionary defines sustainability as “of, relating to, or being a method of harvesting or using a resource so that the resource is not depleted or permanently damaged.” Most of the time, however, that explanation just gets blank stares.

Here’s an easier explanation, one that I’ve used with a couple Junior Naturalists. There’s two dozen cookies on the table, and twelve kids want cookies. If they each take one cookie now, that leaves them all with one cookie for later. This is sustainable, because there are more cookies to share later on. However, if one kid gets greedy and takes a dozen cookies, that leaves one for the other kids, and a single cookie for later. This is not sustainable, because there’s not enough cookies to go around in the future.

It’s the same with our world’s resources. From water to white-tailed deer, we’ve only got so much of it, like the cookies on the table. It’s our responsibility as both nature lovers and inhabitants of Earth to make sure that these cookies, our resources, get shared equally among all who want or need it, and that there’s enough to share later on in the future.

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Interning With the Museum: Farm Yards and Field Work

At the Cable Community Farm I feel like I am at the center of Cable, Wisconsin. On my work days, I walk through the Cable Town Trails to the Cable Natural History Museum. On my off days, I walk outside of my lovely farm house and on to the gardens all found on the Farm. I help out at the Growing Together Garden, or just talk to people who look a little lost and want a tour.

I spend all of my time immersed in the community; even from my bedroom window I can watch Emily Stone weeding before work! When I walk home, I am immediately greeted by friendly people such as Carla and her sister Cecelia (The Chicken Tenders). Even though I am an outsider, I’ve been given a job to help connect the community to the Farm and the Museum. I’m very lucky to have the community of Cable to work with, and I hope that I can give the community the relations to the Museum and Farm they are looking for.

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As a child when visiting my grandparents, I was enthralled with the forests, lakes, and rivers of the Cable area. I became a forester who majored in watershed management and hydrology. When I retired 21 years ago, volunteering at the Cable Natural History Museum was the natural thing to do. How much fun can you have? The question is very simple. What kind of a world do we want to leave for our grandchildren?

—Joseph Brady, Board of Directors

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What kind of a world?
Thank you Volunteers!

Liz Aase  
Alistair Alesh  
Patty Anderson  
Ron Anderson  
Sarah Balbin  
Bev Bauer  
Kathy Bergin  
Krista Berry  
Sarah Boles  
Joseph Brady  
Margie Braun  
Brenda Brueske  
Dave Carter  
Travis Cinco  
Gary Crandall  
Jesse Crandall  
Mimi Crandall  
Kristin Dahl  
Diane DeRoma  
Debbie Detzner  
Sandra Devanie  
Kris Dew  
Nancy Douglas  
Tom Fitz  
Chris Frasch  
Eileen Furlong  
Nathan Garrett  
Sue Grady  
Bronte Gross  
Drew Gutormson  
Katie Hancock  
Gretchen Hannaford  
Vivianne Hanke  
Larry Hanke  
Harry Hanson  
Terry Hanson  
Cari Hartman  
Sandra Harvey  
Lane Hinkfuss  
Barb Howe  
Mark Jensen  
Michaelene Jansen  
Kathi Jensen  
Phil Jensen  
Barb Johnson  
Liz Johnson  
Tom Johnson  
Ed Johnston  
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Diane Kraemer  
Tom Kraemer  
Jackie Kruse  
Barb Larson  
Ingrid Larson  
Kay Lewis  
Monte Lewis  
Roman Lucyk  
Ursula Lucyk  
Jane Mandli  
Tom Matthiae  
Beda McKinney  
Bill McKinney  
Diane Menard  
Marge Mergen  
Kay Meyer  
Pat Mertig  
Shellei Milford  
Anne Miller  
Jim Miller  
Rita Miller  
Kerry Myhra  
Pris Nei  
Brad Nelson  
Kelly Nelson  
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Maureen Palmer  
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Jim Schemensky  
Paula Schemensky  
Paulette Smith  
Laurel Sukup  
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Kasse Tomasula  
Felicia Toohy  
George Tuttle  
Joe Tuttle  
John Uffenbeck  
Mary Wichita  
Jane Weber  
Carol Werner  
Adrian Wydeven  
Jerry Zoromski  
Kathy Zuelsdorff  

Museum Shop Member Mondays

Members can enjoy an additional 10% off Museum Gift Shop purchases on Mondays, Sep. 9-30. Join us for this great Shop discount, as well as coffee, treats, freebies, and a drawing for prizes.

2019 Business Members

| Advanced Printing of Hayward  | Como Oil & Propane  |
| American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation  | Coop’s Pizza Parloure  |
| Anderson Hager & Moe, CPA’s  | Delta Diner  |
| Andy Rasmussen & Sons  | Don Johnson  |
| Apostle Islands Realty, Inc.  | Dragonfly Studio  |
| Apple Awards, Inc.  | Edmunds & Company Log Home  |
| Art Beat of Hayward  | Erdman’s & Company Log Home  |
| Ashland Ford Chrysler  | Restorations  |
| Bear Country  | Elkins & Sons  |
| Blakeman Plumbing & Heating, Inc.  | Hawksford Dental Associates  |
| Brick House Café & Catering  | Hayward Community Credit Union  |
| CAMBA  | Heart Graphics, Inc.  |
| Cable Chiropractic Clinic SC  | Joanne Cleary Insurance  |
| Cable Community Farm  | Johnson Bank  |
| Cable Hayward Area Arts Council  | Johnson’s Resort  |
| Cable Lumber & Home  | King Realty  |
| Century 21 / Woods to Water Realty  | Lee’s Trees  |
| CF Web Services  | Loon Saloon  |
| Chequamegon Fat Tire Festival  | Mainstream Boutique  |
| Chippewa Valley Bank  | Mark Rasmussen Excavating, Inc.  |
| Comfort Suites  | Marketplace Foods & Liquor  |
| McKinney Realty  | Marsh & McLennan Agencies, Inc.  |
| Mogasheen Resort  | My Villa Home Décor  |
| My Villa Home Décor  | Northern Native Plantscapes  |
| Northern Native Plantscapes  | Norvado  |
| Norvado  | Parker Electric  |
| Parker Electric  | Redbery Books  |
| Redbery Books  | Rondeau’s Shopping Center  |
| Rondeau’s Shopping Center  | Rookery Pub at Cable Nature Lodge  |
| Rookery Pub at Cable Nature Lodge  | Sawmill Saloon and Mooselips  |
| Sawmill Saloon and Mooselips  | Scott Byrd Construction  |
| Scott Byrd Construction  | Start Line Inn & Start Line Services  |
| Start Line Inn & Start Line Services  | Telemark Vacation Condos  |
| Telemark Vacation Condos  | Town of Namakagon  |
| Town of Namakagon  | Tremland Resorts  |
| Tremland Resorts  | Trimmer Trees, Inc.  |
| Trimmer Trees, Inc.  | Velo Café  |
| Velo Café  | Whispering Pines Gift & Gallery  |
| Whispering Pines Gift & Gallery  | Winter Greenhouse  |
| Winter Greenhouse  | Xcel Energy  |
Busy as Bees...

We tend to keep busy—from Master Naturalist training to taxidermy conservation, basket classes to maple tapping, book readings to adult naturalist programs, and so much more, there is always something going on at the Museum!

Volunteer Voice: Preparing History

Maintaining a local collection that accurately represents Wisconsin’s flora and fauna is just one mission of the Cable Natural History Museum. When something is donated, whether a plant or unfortunate car-kill, it needs to be prepared for the collection room. This summer, I’ve focused on helping with the curation of specimens for the Museum’s growing local collection as a part-time volunteer. Working with Mollie Kreb, Museum Curator/Naturalist, I have learned new skills in curation in a hands-on way that hasn’t always been glamorous (particularly when it comes to taxidermy), but has always been fun. In addition, the permanent staff immediately made me feel welcome. Knowing that my contributions to the collection will be useful for years to come is something I find myself taking a lot of pride in. I can’t wait to come back in twenty years to visit my old taxidermy mounts and see what is new.
Go Paperless!

Help us save resources and printing costs by receiving *The Museum Messenger* by e-mail. Message info@cablemuseum.org with PAPERLESS in the subject line. Please indicate if you would like to receive our program announcements as well.

In order to be more environmentally conscious, we are now sending out acknowledgement letters for memberships and donations by e-mail instead of regular mail, unless you do not have an e-mail address. Please contact the Museum if we do not have your current e-mail address on file.

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**Natural Connections 2: Dreaming of an Elfin Skimmer**

Do you also love finding adventure and intrigue in strange places? Naturalist/Education Director Emily Stone transports readers across the moat into a magical world where nature is better than fiction in her recently-published second book.

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**Programs by Request!**

The Museum can provide programs at your home, business, or event! Learn more and find our list of the programs we offer at cablemuseum.org/programsbyrequest

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**Nature-Based Travel**

Explore natural connections across the globe with Museum staff through our Nature-Based Travel programs.

Visit cablemuseum.org/programs-and-events/nature-based-travel/ for more on past and future trips.

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**Exploring Iceland!**

**June 20-28, 2020**

Explore Iceland’s rugged landscape, rich cultural history, and dynamic earth forces.