

Past Events - 2024

Sunday, January 7, 5:00-8:00 pm

Annual Membership Meeting

Pot-luck meal with serving ware, coffee or water provided. Program to follow.
Trinity Lutheran Church, 235 N. Stevens in Rhinelander

Saturday, January 27, 10:30 am

Blackjack Springs Wilderness Trail

The snowshoe on the 27th will take us to the Blackjack Springs Wilderness Area app. 8 miles east of Eagle River. From the parking lot we will travel along the shore of Whispering Lake and meander the trail to the spring ponds of Blackjack Creek. Round trip we are looking at an app. 4-mile snowshoe.

Directions: From Eagle River, take Hwy 70 East app. 8 miles, and turn left on Military Road (Forest Road 2178) for about 1.2 miles, to the Whispering Lake/Deerskin Trail Head parking lot on the right (fire number 3153). To get a map of the trail, google [fs.usda.gov>stelprdb5176625](https://fs.usda.gov/stelprdb5176625) Bring along water and a snack for yourself. After the snowshoe we may want to socialize at a local establishment in the area.

Friday, February 16, 9:00 am

Snowshoe/Hike Raven Trail

Let's get outside and really enjoy this warm spell before winter begins. It's hard to imagine a winter like this when you don't need snowshoes to go snowshoeing in February. The Raven Trail system may be the most popular trail in the Northern Highlands State Forest. It contains a short 1.4-mile nature trail that goes through an old growth hemlock forest and takes you along the shore of Hemlock Lake. The rest of the trail system consists of three loops ranging in length of 2.3, 3.1 and 4.2 miles respectively. The trail will also take us past two lakes, Inkpot and Clear. This multiple use trail is used by hikers, mountain bikers, cross country skiers, snowshoers, and fat tire bikers. Snowshoes may not be needed for this snowshoe because of the lack of snow. You may want to bring some sunflower seeds if you have some, because the chickadees will be waiting to be fed at various locations along the trail. Great photo opportunities!

Directions: It is located about 5 miles south of Woodruff off of Hwy 47. For those coming from the Rhinelander direction, take Hwy 47 north, go through Lake Tomahawk, and turn right on Woodruff Road. Travel past the entrance to Clear Lake campground and the parking lot will be on your right. We will meet at the trailhead parking lot 840 Woodruff Road #8322 at 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, February 21, 5:00-7:30 pm

Game Night at Rhinelander Brewery

What is a Game Night? It's an opportunity to get together with other NPT members and guests to socialize over a beer/root beer and play board and card games. Also, it's a good excuse to get out of the house during these winter months. The Rhinelander Brewing Co.'s atmosphere of picnic tables, popcorn machine and a large collection of beer choices makes this an inviting place to have our game night event. And by the way they make their own root beer which is very good. They do not serve food, but they encourage NPT members to bring food in for the event. There are a number of places close by, such as Subway across the street, where you can pick something up and bring it with you. Rhinelander Brewing Co. has some games available we can use, but if you have a favorite board or card game, please bring it along. Uno and Yahtzee are always fun. I think you can check out board games at the Rhinelander Public Library. Rhinelander Brewing Co. is located at 43S Brown Street in downtown Rhinelander. Same street as Mel's Sporting Goods store. This event is also posted on Northwoods Adventure Meetup, so

hopefully you will have the opportunity of meeting some of those folks as well. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Hope to see you at this low-level competitive event.

Saturday, February 24, 1:00 pm

Ice Shuffleboard and Squash Lake Disc Golf

No matter what the weather we always have a good time. Fun and Fellowship is a given as we play and gather around the fire and graze on a variety of snacks. We will Provide Hot Water for apple cider and hot chocolate. Feel free to bring a snack to share and your preferred beverage. We have several chairs but if yours is handy bring it along. Mehring's residence.

Wednesday, March 13, 5:30-8:00 pm

Game Night at Rhinelander Brewery

We are scheduling another Game Night at the Rhinelander Brewing Co. Jay started us off with the first Game Night in February. It was great fun and well attended. The Rhinelander Brewing Co. sells Beer and homemade Root Beer and has fresh popcorn. They do not have food but you can bring it in or order it in. It is located at 43 S Brown St. in Rhinelander.

Friday, March 15, 10:30 am

Hike the Palette Lake Loop

Again, it's time to get outside and have some fun. So, let's head up to the Boulder Junction area and do some hiking. We will hike the 4.38-mile loop around Palette Lake which is one of the two loops making up the Escanaba Trail System. Meet at the trailhead parking lot.

Directions: From Rhinelander (57 min) take Hwy 47 N. to Woodruff. Head north on Hwy 51 and turn right onto Hwy M. Turn right onto Escanaba Lake Rd/Nebish Lake Rd. Travel app. 3.5 miles and turn left to the Escanaba parking lot. From Minocqua/Woodruff the parking lot is approximately 25 minutes. Restrooms are available near the trailhead. Hope you can make this fantastic hike.

Saturday, March 23, 10:30 am

Hike the Fallison Lake Trail

With this beautiful weather, it is difficult to stay inside, so we need to get outside and enjoy it! Let's get together for a hike on one of our well-known state trails. The Fallison Trail is located between Sayner and Boulder Junction and is about 47 minutes from Rhinelander and 17 minutes from Minocqua. The trail is 2.5 miles with some moderate uphill and winds around the 50-acre Fallison Lake.

Directions: From Rhinelander take Hwy 47 north to Woodruff and turn right on to Hwy 51 north. Turn right on to Hwy M for 2.7 miles Turn right on to Hwy N for 2.4 miles and the state parking lot is on the right. The parking lot is across the road from the state's Crystal Lake/Muskellunge Lake Campground.

Sunday, April 14, 1:00 pm

Hike – Nose Lake Trail

Hello fellow hikers - This is a dog friendly trail so plan on bringing your best friend. The terrain is not very steep, so the 2.5 miles through the northern hardwood forest is a relatively relaxing hike.

Directions from Rhinelander: (30 min) Take Hwy K west and go past the UW Seed Potato Farm and turn left (south) on Hancock Lake Rd. which will become Hancock Oneida Lake Rd. The parking lot is on the left side of the road and is app 5 miles from the intersection of HWY K and Hancock Lake Rd. If you want to hike a bit more, we can hike on the cross-country ski trail which also starts at the parking lot.

Sunday, May 5, 1:00-4:00 pm

Paddle – Bearskin Creek

Hi fellow paddlers - It's hard to believe, but it's time to dust off your kayak and canoe and grab your paddling gear. If you have been looking at next week's weather forecast it indicates we need to be on the water. So, let's paddle the Bearskin Creek from the Harshaw put-in, where the creek crosses Lakewood Road to the take-out at the Harshaw Rd/Church Rd intersection. We will gather at 1:00 p.m. at the put-in to unload our boats and gear and prepare for the shuttle. This stretch of the creek is one that most of us are familiar with, seeing that the state bike trail crosses it with its many historic railroad trestles. Canoes and kayaks can be easily used. No rapids or waterfalls to worry about. PFD's are required to have in your boat for each person. For those interested, a side trip to the Ten Point Bar/Grill, which is close by, is an option after the paddle. Invite a friend along and enjoy the first NPT paddle of the year.

Saturday, May 11, 12:00 pm (noon)

Hike – Dells of the Eau Claire

Want to go halfway between the North Pole and the Equator? Well, that's where we're going (45 degrees north latitude) when we venture south of Rhinelander to Dells of the Eau Claire County Park. Our designation is about 1 hour south of the intersection of Hwy 17 and Hwy 8 E. (Golden Harvest). Several of us were there the second weekend of May last year and were amazed at the abundance and variety of species of wildflowers we saw. There is no guarantee that the same experience will repeat itself. Who knows with this strange weather we had this year when the best viewing time will be, but we won't know unless we go and check it out. This adventure is low key and relaxing. Some in the group are very familiar with wildflower ID and can be most helpful. If the wildflower viewing is limited, the spectacular views on the 1-mile Loop Trail along the Eau Claire River won't disappoint you. The park offers visitors several other nature trails right on the banks of the Eau Claire River with spectacular waterfalls and rapids. If you want to add more hiking to your day, there are a number of other trails you can explore. The Dells of the Eau Claire Park surrounds fantastic geological features created by the Eau Claire River. Ancient volcanic rock palisades and potholes carved in the rock by the falling water create a unique place at the dells and gorge.

Directions: Google map P2150 County Road Y and that will take you to the parking lot. Bring a picnic or sack lunch and a beverage or two. Dogs are welcome but must be on a leash.

Thursday, May 30, 1:00-3:00 pm

Paddle/Explore the Backwaters of Clear Lake

We will put in at the DNR boat landing by the campground. Our adventure will include paddling into an area of Clear Lake that is pretty inaccessible to motor boats and jet skis. It's a great place to see various waterfowl, turtles and great blue herons. For those who want a little more paddling, we can explore around the islands and take the very short flat portage (around 50 ft) into Inkpot Lake. Let's meet at the put-in at 1:00 pm. There is no shuttle needed. You will need a DNR state vehicle sticker which can be purchased at the contact station as you come into the campground if you do not already have one.

Directions: From Rhinelander (35 minutes) take HWY 47 north towards Woodruff, and turn right on Woodruff Road. About half a mile turn right on Clear Lake Rd which is the entrance to the campground. Drive past the contact station and turn right and follow the road to the boat landing and parking lot. From Woodruff, (10 minutes) take Hwy 47 south to Woodruff RD and turn left and in a half mile turn right into the campground entrance. Remember your PFD, a requirement for all NPT paddles. Hope to see you on this quiet relaxing paddle.

Thursday, June 4, 1:00-3:00 pm

Paddle Pelican River

It's definitely paddle season in Wisconsin, so let's start the NPT summer season on the Pelican River right here in Rhinelander. For those that haven't paddled this stretch of the Pelican before, I think you will find it an enjoyable float. We will meet at the put-in bridge on River Bend Road and will be taking out at the confluence of the Pelican and Wisconsin rivers on Boyce Drive.

Directions: (Rhinelander 5 minutes) From the intersection of Hwy 8 east & G (Golden Harvest) travel south on Hwy G (go past Hanson's Garden Village) and turn left on Germon Rd. and then an immediate right (Pelican Town Shop) on to River Bend Rd. to the bridge. We will put-in on the east side of the bridge. A short vehicle shuttle is needed down to the take out boat landing/parking lot on Boyce Dr.. This stretch is relatively easy with some riffle areas, but mostly flat and peaceful. PFD's are required on all NPT paddles. There may be an opportunity for some more social time at Culvers after the paddle for those interested in that sort of experience. Hope to see you on the water!

Wednesday-Thursday, June 12-13 *see following 3 events*

Paddle/Camp Sylvania Wilderness and Recreation Area

On this adventure we will head north about an hour from Rhinelander to the Sylvania Wilderness and Recreation Area outside Watersmeet, Michigan. For those of you who haven't been there you will be impressed with the beauty of the area. The old-growth forests of hemlock, yellow birch, and its pristine 34 named non-motorized lakes provide plentiful fishing and canoeing/kayaking and hiking opportunities. This event consists of two adventures and an opportunity to car camp if you choose to. You can participate in one or both depending on your summer schedule. There is vehicle admission fee of \$5.00/day that can be paid by using the fee tube at the Entrance Station. If you have a senior recreation card pass for the National Parks and other Recreational Areas then there is no fee. You may need to display its number or the card itself on the dash of your vehicle. No metal or glass food or beverage containers, including foam containers can be taken into the wilderness area where we are going.

Wednesday, June 12, 1:00-4:00 pm

Paddle Sylvania from Crooked Lake to High Lake

On Wednesday, we will put-in at the Crooked Lake boat landing and paddle to High Lake. No shuttle will be needed on this day and there are vault toilets at the landing. There is a short portage between Crooked and High, and we will help each other move the boats across. High Lake is a 77-acre crystal clear lake that at times can be turquoise in color depending on the direction of the Sun. It was a spiritual experience for me seeing High Lake for the first time. On a calm day you can see the smallmouth bass swimming among the logs on the bottom of the lake 95 feet below your boat. For those interested, we can portage into Kerr Lake and do some more exploring there before heading back to Crooked and our vehicles. PFD's are required for all NPT paddle events. Bring water, snacks and wear appropriate footwear and clothes for the weather. See you at the landing.

Directions from Rhinelander: (Approximately 1 hour 10 min) Take Hwy 17 north to Eagle River, then Hwy 45 north to Watersmeet, Michigan. Turn left at the intersection of Hwy 45 and Hwy 2 and travel west for several miles (app. 5 miles) and turn left on Thousand Island Rd. Travel several miles (app 2 or 3 miles) down and you'll see the Sylvania Wilderness entrance sign and turn left to the Entrance Station. From the entrance station follow the signs to the boat landing/parking lots. Turn left for the Crooked Lake put-in, and turn right for Clark Lake put-in.

Wednesday, June 12, overnight

Car camp Sylvania at Clark Lake Campground

For those that want to we can spend the night in Sylvania at the Clark Lake Campground. There is no group campsite so each person will need to reserve their own site. Reservations can be made by going to Recreation.gov Once there, search Sylvania (Clark Lake) Campground.

Contact me if you're interested in camping and possibly be can reserve sites fairly close by or share a campsite. If you're interested in going up to see the Paulding Light south of Bruce Crossing, MI. in the evening we could do that too. Paulding Light is a mysterious light that appears every evening in a remote area that attracts many visitors to the U.P.

Thursday, June 13, 10:30 am - 2:30 pm

Paddle Sylvania Clark Lake to the Crooked Lake boat landing

Our put-in will be the Clark Lake boat landing which has vault toilets. We will shuttle vehicles to the Crooked Lake boat landing parking lot which is about a 10 minutes' drive. At the far end of Clark is a nice sandy beach where we can have lunch. Then we will portage over to Crooked Lake. We will help each other move our boats across the portage over to Crooked. Once we get into Crooked, there are several areas we can explore depending on the groups interest and time restraints. PFD's are required for all NPT paddle events. Bring water, lunch/snacks and wear appropriate footwear and clothes for the weather. Remember, no glass/cans/foam containers. After the paddle, depending on interest, there could be more socializing by stopping in Conover for pizza/beverage on our way back.

Directions from Rhinelander: (Approximately 1 hour 10 min) Take Hwy 17 north to Eagle River, then Hwy 45 north to Watersmeet, Michigan. Turn left at the intersection of Hwy 45 and Hwy 2 and travel west for several miles (app. 5 miles) and turn left on Thousand Island Rd. Travel several miles (app 2 or 3 miles) down and you'll see the Sylvania Wilderness entrance sign and turn left to the Entrance Station. From the entrance station follow the signs to the boat landing/parking lots. Turn left for the Crooked Lake put-in, and turn right for Clark Lake put-in.

Monday, June 17, 10:00 am

Bike Three Eagle Trail – Lunch Ride/Ice Cream Ride

16 miles round trip, mostly flat (one good hill I think). The surface is crushed limestone. Meet to ride at 128 Sundstein Rd, Eagle River, WI 54521. There is a pit-toilet about ¼ mile up the trail from where we are starting. We will stop there first. This is a casual ride, not a race. We will have lunch at a restaurant/coffee shop in Three Lakes before riding back to our cars. Those who want extra miles will continue riding to Eagle River where there is tempting ice cream. This will add nine miles round trip for a total of about 25 miles.

Friday-Sunday, June 21-23, All Day

Paddle/Camp Bois Brule River

If you haven't paddled Wisconsin's premiere Bois Brule River yet, this is your big chance. This adventure will start on Friday, June 21, and conclude on Sunday, June 23.

We will be camping in the Brule River State Forest at the Bois Brule campground just south of the little town of Brule. The campground is approximately a 3-hour drive from Rhinelander.

There are opportunities to camp next to the river in the walk-in campsites and others in the family campground. NPT has reserved the two walk-in sites along the river. Let me know ASAP to hold a space for you in the walk-in sites and your space will be held with a \$20 fee. If you want to camp in the family campground you will need to reserve a site for June 21 and 22, go to: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/StateForests/bruleriver/recreation/camping>

We are staying at the Bois Brule campground, not the Copper Range campground. These sites fill up fast so reserve your site ASAP. Rules for paddling the Bois Brule River are here <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/StateForests/bruleriver/recreation/paddle>

We will paddle two sections of the river which will require basic/intermediate paddling skills.

Saturday, we paddle from the Stone Bridge Landing to the campground. On Sunday, the paddle will start at the HWY 13 bridge landing and end when we paddle into Lake Superior. On Saturday evening we will gather around the fire for stew/crackers and dessert. Here is a great website (Miles Paddled) with videos and details of the actual paddles we will be doing.

<https://milespaddled.com/bois-brule-river-paddle-guide/> I suggest not watching the entire videos so as not to ruin the adventure of the unexpected. Each participant will be responsible for their own boat/equipment, camping gear and food/drink, except the Saturday night meal will be provided. A PFD is required in your boat for each person on this trip. Please check out the DNRs website: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/StateForests/bruleriver/recreation/camping> for any restrictions in the campground and on the river. It is important to RSVP, so we know who is coming and can communicate any important information that you may need to know. Let me know if not having a boat is keeping you from going. The deadline to register for this adventure is June 1st. Once we know who is attending you will be given a list of the other paddlers and more specifics on the daily schedule, maps, etc. Hope to see you on the river in June!!!!

Sunday, June 23, 7:30 am

Hike Holmboe Conifer Forest

Turn in at the Northlife Church at 903 Boyce Dr, Rhinelander, WI 54501 and go behind it to park by the trailhead. It is only about a mile hike, but it is quite diverse. We should experience a few hills and a boardwalk and a mushroom or two. If we want to hike more, we can do the loop twice. Afterwards, we will have the option to go for coffee in downtown Rhinelander.

Saturday, June 29, 12:30 pm

Annual Potluck Picnic

The board has planned a spring club picnic for June 29th. It will again be at the Judy Swank Shelter on Perch Lake. We will set up at 12:30 and plan to eat at 1:00. If the weather is bad, rain-date is the next day. The club will provide: the brats and hot dogs, potato salad, chips, pickles, sauerkraut, beans & condiments. Utensils and plates also provided.

- BYO beverages, lawn chair and a guest(s). Water will be available.
- We need desserts and/or veggie/fruit dishes to pass, if you are able.
- Please RSVP to: mboyer6311@gmail.com with the number coming.

Directions: From the intersection of Hwy K and 47, turn onto Hwy K going west. Then go about 7 miles and turn left (south) onto Washburn Lake Rd. Go 1.0 mile and turn left (east) onto Trout Creek Rd. Follow Trout Creek Rd for less than a mile and turn right onto County Park Road into the parking lot. (Google search: Washburn Lake Silent Sports Trail Area for a map.)

It's always fun to socialize with your fellow NPTers and meet new members. And we'd like to hear your thoughts on the new Meetup platform. We hope you've had a chance to try it out. So come enjoy a traditional Wisconsin picnic meal with us. If you like, come early/ stay later, to go for a hike or bring a boat for a paddle. It's a great venue with variety. Mark Your Calendars! We hope you can make it.

Saturday, July 6, 10:30 am

Bike Conover-Phelps Trail

Join us for this fun and easy bike ride on the Conover-Phelps Trail - railroad grade, runs past marshland, beaver habitat, and into the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. Most of the first 8.7-mile stretch has a granite aggregate surface. The last few miles into Phelps are paved. Bring lunch, water, snacks, and whatever you need for an outdoor adventure bike ride. We will meet at the western trailhead in the Conover Town Park on Hwy. K, just east of Hwy 45. Restrooms are available here and in Phelps. We will stop at the east trailhead in Phelps and eat lunch before returning to Conover. About 20 miles total. Class I, II, and III e-bikes are allowed. *As an option... ride only one way to Phelps. But you must let me know if you are doing this so we can arrange the shuttle. Plus, those doing this will need to meet 30-45 minutes earlier so we can all start biking at 10:30am. Details about this trail and the map are here.

<https://ghtrails.org/trail-system/conover-phelps-trail/>

Wednesday, July 10, 10:30 am

Hike McNaughton Trail

This trail is gentle terrain with a few hills. Meet at trail head, 3.5 miles south of Lake Tomahawk on Hwy. 47, then west on Kildeer Rd. to parking lot. From Rhinelander go north on Hwy. 47 passed McNaughton, Kildeer Rd. will be on your left. Bring water and bug spray.

Sunday, July 28, 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

Paddle/Hike Guido Rahr Sr. Tenderfoot Forest Reserve (TFR)

Let's travel northeast of Boulder Junction to the Guido Rahr, Sr. Tenderfoot Forest Reserve for a paddle and hike to explore its 500 acres old-growth forests and wild lakes. The Tenderfoot Reserve is a critical link in a network of public and private forest lands that make up the Border Lakes Area, which spans about 24,000 acres in Vilas County. We will meet at the Palmer Lake boat landing at 9:30 a.m. Paddle 3 miles to TFR. Then we will hike the maintained trail through the old-growth forest, relax and have our lunch. After our visit to this unique area we will paddle back to our vehicles. Be sure to remember, appropriate clothing, water, lunch. A PFD is required on all NPT paddle events. There are no restrooms facilities at the TFR. Dogs are welcome, however, they must remain on leash during this time of the year. To learn more about the TFR, and get a map, you can google search Guido Rahr, Sr. or connect directly with <https://vilaswi.com/trail/guido-rahr/>

Directions: Rhinelander (1 hr.10 min, app. 55 miles) Take Hwy 17 north to Eagle River, Hwy 45 north to Conover. Turn left on Hwy K, Right on Hwy S, left on Hwy B, Right on Palmer Lake Rd.

Tuesday, August 13, 10:00-11:30 am

Paddle – Harrison Flowage

Hello fellow paddlers: This paddle will take us to Lincoln County's Harrison Flowage. NPT paddled this 194-acre lake last year, and observed an array of wildlife sightings. These included: swans, otters, various types of ducks, geese, sandhill cranes, turtles, and Bryozoans. Also, we discovered some unique mounds on the shoreline that we could not identify, we assumed were made by some animal. We need to go back and check them out some more. If you're interested in doing a little exploring with your kayak or canoe, make sure to join us on this paddle. Also, your northern native aquatic plants are abundant. With the white water lily in bloom. Harrison Flowage is approximately 9.5 miles south from Rhinelander.

Directions: From the intersection of Hwy 8 & 17, head south to Hwy A (turn right). Continue on Hwy A to Mail Route Road (turn Left). Travel a few miles to a sharp right hand curve, (be careful) and immediately turn left onto Dam Road. Follow Dam Rd. to the landing. Come join us for a relaxing, stress free, flat water paddle adventure here in northern Wisconsin. Invite a friend along. A PFD is required for each person.

Tuesday, August 20, 6:00 pm

Evening Paddle Langley Lake

Take Hwy. K from Rhinelander and turn left onto Nursery Rd. across from the Fireside Restaurant. There is a small parking area just before the road is barricaded off. The boat launch is just off to the right. We could start out later if there will good visibility for a full moon. We'll decide that likely the day before. Don't forget your PFD and bug spray.

Saturday, August 24, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Paddle the Deerskin River

Northern Paddle & Trail has yet another adventure in store for you coming up. We plan to head to the Eagle River area and paddle the Deerskin River. The Deerskin runs east to west just north of Eagle River and is a brook trout stream with great water clarity. This is a section of

the stream that the Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service and Trout Unlimited have invested their time and energies into making it a valuable recreational resource. There is a nice current to the Deerskin, with no rapids and waterfalls to worry about, but does meander a bit. We will paddle from the end of Forest Road 2199B to Rangeline Road and be on the water for about 3 hours. At my house we will determine the shuttle. Remember your PFD, a requirement for all NPT paddles.

Directions from Rhinelander: (45 min.) Hwy 17 north to Eagle River, turn right on Hwy 70 east, go straight through town, turn left on Rangeline Road, then right on Deerskin Rd to 3653 Deerskin Rd. I hope you can join me on this fun, relaxing paddle in the Northwoods.

Tuesday, August 27, 5:00-7:00 pm

Paddle – Wisconsin River, Hat Rapids Dam to Camp Ten

Hi - The Wisconsin River is in our backyard so let's get out there and enjoy it. This paddle is close to Rhinelander and very friendly. We will be paddling a short section (3.3 miles) of the river south of town from the Hat Rapids Dam to Camp Ten. The Put-In below the dam is relatively shallow, so plan on getting your feet wet. Once you're launched, you should have plenty of water for a relaxing, scenic paddle. There is very little development along this stretch with a heavily wooded shoreline. This stretch has no rapids, with a few large boulders to dodge around. Nothing dangerous, by the way. This is a relaxing, scenic paddle that should take about 2 hours if we take our time and absorb the ambience of this northern Wisconsin river.

Where to Meet: We will meet at the Put-In (5:00 p.m.) which is upstream from the Hat Rapids Road Bridge, just below the dam. Traveling west on Hat Rapids Road turn right before crossing the bridge which will take you to the parking area by the dam. From there we will determine the shuttle to the Take-Out (Camp Ten) which is close by. PFDs are required on all NPT paddles.

Directions from Rhinelander: (12 min) From the intersection of Hwy 8 East and Hwy 17, follow Hwy 17 south a few miles and turn right on Hat Rapids Road. Turn right to the dam on the gravel driveway before you cross the WI. River bridge. Hope to see you on the water.

Wednesday, September 18, 1:00 pm

Bike the Bearskin

Meet at the south trail head parking area on Hwy. K west of Rhinelander, by Lakewood Rd. If you hit Hwy.51, you've gone too far. We usually bike up to Blue Lake, take a little break and head back. Bring water and a snack if you like.

Saturday, September 21, 2:00-4:00 pm

Paddle the Wisconsin River

If you think paddling is over because all the tourists went home and school started, think again. Fall is a great paddling season in Wisconsin. So gather up your boat and paddling gear and join NPT members for our second Wisconsin River paddle this year. This time we will go north of Rhinelander. We will meet at the Put-In at the McNaughton Bridge Landing at 2:00 pm. and drop off our boats and gear. From there we will shuttle vehicles to the Apperson Drive boat landing about 3 miles (7 min) away. This stretch of river is all flatwater and very scenic. The upper section is mostly wooded and the lower section is a huge wild rice bed with interlacing waterways enticing one to explore. If you have binoculars you may want to bring them along. It is not uncommon to see great blue herons, bald eagles, and an assortment of waterfowl. For those interested, a social gathering after the paddle is a possibility at the Backwaters Bar & Grill very close by. PFD's are required on all NPT paddle events.

Directions: From Rhinelander take Hwy 47 north to the swiping big curve and take Bridge Road on the right. Follow Bridge Road about a mile and you will come to the landing on the right.

Wednesday, September 25, 10:30 am – 2:00 pm

Paddle - Pallette and Escanaba Lakes

Let's get outside and enjoy this beautiful fall weather by paddling two of Wisconsin's premier wild lakes, Pallette and Escanaba. Both lakes are located south of Boulder Junction, about 10 miles, in the Northern Highlands State Forest. Paddle Pallette-Escanaba Lakes on Wednesday, September 25th 10:30 am - 2:00 pm. Escanaba Lake is well known in the fishery science community throughout the world. On its shore, by our Put-In at the landing, is the headquarters for the Northern Highland Fishery Research Area (NHFRA). For over 70 years NHFRA has been conducting research on five wild lakes: Nebish, Pallette, Mystery, Spruce and Escanaba. Escanaba is one of the most studied walleye lakes in the world. We will Put-In at the boat landing on Escanaba and explore its shoreline and islands. Then we will head to the portage to Pallette Lake. This portage is flat and short. We will help each other in moving our boats and gear. According to John Bates in his book, Wisconsin's Wild Lakes, Pallette is in the top10 of Wisconsin's wild lakes. Once we are on Pallette we will search out one of the four campsites and have lunch. After exploring Pallette we will start heading back to the landing on Escanaba. For those wishing for more wild lake paddling (or just walk into and see the lake) we can travel a short distance down the road and check out Nebish, Mystery, and Spruce. If you wish to learn more about these unique wild lakes, peruse Wisconsin's Wild Lakes, Pages 80-81 for Escanaba and pages 150-151 for Pallette. PFD's are required on all NPT paddle events. Make sure to bring water, lunch and dress for the weather.

Directions: From Rhinelander (60 min) take Hwy 47 north to Woodruff. Turn right onto Hwy 51 north, turn right (east) on County Road M towards Boulder Junction. Approximately 5 miles turn right on Nebish Lake Road (Escanaba Lake Rd). Continue about 3.5 miles and turn left to the parking lot for the Escanaba Hiking Trail and continue on to the boat landing for Escanaba. I hope you can make this adventure to paddle these outstanding Wisconsin's wild lakes.

Saturday, October 19, 10:30 am – 2:00 pm

Hike the Star Lake Hiking Trail (2.5 miles)

Located in the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest at Star Lake, Wisconsin, this scenic trail is found on a peninsula that juts out into Star Lake, offering wonderful views of the horseshoe-shaped 1,200-acre lake. The Star Lake Hiking Trail is a moderately hilly trail that is approximately 2.5 miles in length. The additional nature trail consists of a one-mile loop (Blue Loop) that features interpretive signage about the area and its natural history. The Red Loop follows the shoreline of Star Lake. The trail is open for hiking in spring, summer and fall and snowshoeing (ungroomed) in winter. This historical trail winds its way through what was, in the early 1900s, a pasture for horses hauling logs from the surrounding woods to the Star Lake Mill. This trail is also the site of the first tree plantings in Wisconsin. The red pine plantation research plot trees that are still on this site were planted as 2-year-old seedlings in 1913 from seed stock grown at the old Trout Lake Nursery. In summer, this trail is a great place to see blue flag iris, pipsissewa, various Pyrola species, one-flowered wintergreen and Indian pipe. There is no fee required to use the trail. Pets and bikes are not allowed on the Star Lake Nature Trail. We will meet at the trailhead parking area at 10:30 am which is located at the end of Statehouse Road, near the West Star Lake Campground.

Directions form Rhinelander (51 min): Take Hwy 17 north to the intersection of HWY 17 and HWY 70 (Eagle River). Turn left (west) on HWY 70. Turn right (north) on to Sunset Road to the intersection of Sunset Rd and HWY G. Turn left on HWY G and travel NW until the intersection of HWY G and HWY N. Turn right on to HWY N which will intersect with HWY K. Stay on HWY K (west) and go past the Star Lake Store and turn left on to State House Rd. Follow State House Rd to the trailhead parking lot. Hope to see you on this favorite trail of many nature lovers.

Monday, October 28, 12:00-2:00 pm

Hike Tara Lila Trail on Ripco Rd Park Unit

Join us for a hike on the Tara Lila Trail, just north of Sugar Camp a short drive off Hwy. 17. Tara Lila - Ripco Road Unit is nearly 800 acres and miles of trails. The eastern Samadhi area is defined by stunning elevation changes and the hallmark of it's glacial ancestry. The western Jewel Tree area is a rolling landscape dominated by towering basswoods slowly transitions to the expansive bog that defines the northern Sunyata area, some of which is only accessible when frozen. The Kushmanda Trail is a good option for those on foot for the first time exploring this trail system. The loops are short, so many options are available. We can decide what sections we want to hike when we meet. Dogs on leash are welcome. Details of this trail system are here. <https://www.taralila.org/ripco-rd>

Directions from north of Sugar Camp: At intersection Hwy 70 and 17, go south of Eagle River on Hwy. 17 for 2.8 miles, turn left on Ripco Rd. and drive 2.7 miles to the parking area on the left. Directions from south of Sugar Camp: Turn Right on the "first" Ripco Rd., Drive 1.5 miles to the Parking area on the right. (staying on Ripco Rd. by turning left after the first mile, see map)

Saturday, November 2, 3:00 pm

NPT Annual Scavenger Hunt, Hike & Pot Luck

Perch Lake Shelter, Washburn Lake Silent Sports Area

Directions: Take County Road K west of Rhinelander; Turn Left onto Washburn Lake Road; then Left onto Trout Creek Road This year we will have 3 Teams venturing out on Three Different Trails. The Same Critters Migrate to Washburn Lake every Year around Halloween. This year you will be locating them and your Team will bring them back to the shelter and Share your Stories during a Pot Luck Dinner.

Pot Luck Starts at 5:45 pm. It is always a great time for Challenge, Fellowship, and of course Great Food. For the potluck bring some food to share. We will have hot drinks, paper plates & plastic tableware. We will meet at the Judy Swank, Perch Lake Shelter. The potluck will be either outside by the fireplace or inside depending on the weather.