

Past Events - 2023

Saturday, January 14, 11:00 am

Snowshoe/Hike – Newbold Outdoor Recreation Area (NORA)

This is a short but sweet trail

Saturday, January 22, 5:00-8:00 pm

Membership Event – Potluck Meeting

Visit and share your outdoor experiences with friends. We'll share our ideas for outdoor experiences we would like to do this year as well.

Saturday, February 4, 10:00 am

Snowshoe/Hike – Ice Age Trail

The Northwoods Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance will host a guided snowshoe hike in the Underdown area of the Lincoln County Forest. Some of us joined them.

Saturday, February 4, 3:00 pm – Dark

Tara Lila Snowshoe Celebration 2023

Annual Event at Ripco Road Unit – 7550 Ripco Road, Eagle River, WI.

Campfire with smores and hot chocolate

Guided naturalist tour leaving the parking lot at 3 pm

Luminary Walk at dusk

Monday, February 6, 10:00 am, 1 ½ hours

Snowshoe Heal Creek

Blue to Red Trail, about 1.5 miles. May be some wet spots on low areas of Red Trail. Hwy 8 west to Northwoods Golf Course. Go to parking under the ski banner and left of the main entrance.

Monday, February 13, 10:00 am, 1 ½ hours

Snowshoe Almon Reserve Wetland Trail

Right past a huggable huge old white pine on cut-over trail. 1.5 miles Almon Reserve (Buck Lake) E. on G, R on Lassig Rd. First R. onto Hixon Lake Rd. Almon Reserve entrance and parking on Right.

Monday, February 20, 10:00 am

Snowshoe Nose Lake Trail

RASTA says it is 2.3 miles thru Balsam, Oak, & Maple ridges & stands of Aspen and white and red pine. (And I recall seeing nice bunches of birch). Plan on one and a half hours.

From Rhinelander west on 8 until the second entrance to N (Not Woodboro). There may be a sign pointing to Heafford Jct. N is about 15 minutes from Rhinelander. Take N to Hancock Oneida Lake Rd. The parking lot 2586 is on the E side of road. There is a porta potty. If you want to carpool, meet at the Rhinelander Chamber at 9:30.

Saturday, February 25, 1:00-4:30 pm

Ice Shuffleboard and Squash Lake Disc Golf

Enjoy this fun outdoor late winter outing with Ice shuffleboard, game of disk golf, bonfire, snacks and visiting.

Monday, March 6, 10:00 am

Snowshoe Hike - Mud Lake

We will do the cedar swamp trail. It's about 3 miles...maybe a short bit more and totally worth it. Soo many beautiful large cedars and much more. The trail is groomed for fat tire bikes and we must step off the trail and give them right of way. No facilities at the trail head. Plan on at least 2 hours.

Directions: Rhinelander W to River Road. As River Road curves around the Hodag Festival grounds continue straight into Crystal Lake Rd. Go about 1.8 miles to the Mud Lake parking lot. There will be a brown sign on the right indicating parking on the left for the trail.

Saturday, May 6, 9:30-11:30 am

Paddle – Bearskin Creek

Let's paddle the Bearskin Creek near Harshaw on Saturday, May 6th from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. 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 used. No rapids or waterfalls to worry about. PFDs 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.

Tuesday, May 9, 11:30 am – 3:00 pm

Paddle - Manitowish River

This will be our second paddle this year. We will paddle the Manitowish River from the town of Manitowish Waters to the state wayside on Hwy 51 north of Manitowish Waters. This will be a relaxed, quiet water paddling adventure with no fast water. The river will take us through a combination of habitats from forest to marshy wetlands. The opportunity to see a variety of wildlife this time of year is great. The water quality is usually clear, so there is also the chance to see fish. Suckers should be spawning around now in the river, which is neat to see. We will put in below the Rest Lake dam in the town of Manitowish Waters on Highway W and prepare for our shuttle to the take out at the state wayside on highway 51. PFDs are required for each person. Weather is supposed to be in the high 60's and water levels and current should be great. Consider bringing a lunch and water along to nibble on while taking spring in northern Wisconsin. For those that want we could stop for a little socializing after the paddle.

Saturday, May 20, 1:00 pm

Wildflower Hike – Raven Nature Trail

Join us for a spring wildflower hike on the 1.5-mile Raven Nature Trail where we will look for bog rosemary, cotton grass, sundew and pitcher plants. If we want to look for more flowers, we can drive 25 minutes further north to the 1-mile North Trout Nature Trail where we will look for moccasin flower, trailing arbutus and fragrant lily-of-the-valley. Participants wishing to carpool are welcome to meet us at the Trig's parking lot in Rhinelander at 12:20 for the 30-minute drive to Raven Nature Trail located south of Woodruff on Hwy 47, turn east on Woodruff Road and go .5 mile. 8420 Woodruff Rd #8332, Woodruff, WI

Saturday, May 27, 10:00 am

Road Trip – Spooner

Let's carpool to the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum in Spooner. They are having their annual Canoe and Wooden Boat Show on Saturday, May 27th from 10:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. In addition to the boat show, you can enjoy the museum open house, exhibit hall tours, canoe construction demonstrations in the shop, live music on the back porch, and food & beverages in the beer garden.

Wednesday, May 31, 1:00-3:00 pm

Paddle – Bearskin Creek

Let's paddle the Bearskin Creek again near Harshaw. This is our second paddle on the Bearskin this season. We will do the second section, putting in where we got out last time at Harsaw. 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 used. No rapids or waterfalls to worry about. There may be a spot you might have to get out and walk a short distance because of water depth, so plan on getting your feet wet. PFDs 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.

Monday, June 5, 7:00 pm

Speaker series on Wisconsin Boreal Birds

Discovery Center, Manitowish Water

Thursday, June 8, 1:00-4:30 pm

Paddle – Nixon Creek State Natural Area

We will paddle the Nixon Lake State Natural Area east of Boulder Junction in Vilas County, located in the Northern Highlands- American Legion State Forest. We will paddle Nixon Lake which is a small lake of 110 acres with a depth of 5 feet. (dnr.wisconsin.gov/nixonlake) From Nixon Lake we will paddle down Nixon Creek, with a good chance of seeing swans, and then into the Manitowish River. Depending upon time we can paddle up the Manitowish River toward and up Johnson Creek to explore some more. A shuttle will be needed for this paddle. Suitable for canoes and kayaks. All flat water, no rapids and waterfalls to dump in, sorry!! Bring sunscreen, insect repellent (although shouldn't be bad) snacks, hat, water bottle, paddle and a PFD needs to be in your boat. We will meet on Nixon Lake Road where Nixon Creek leaves Nixon Lake at 1:00 p.m. Take out will be on Dam Road at the low head dam, which has a parking lot on the Manitowish River. Because Dave, Betty and Rich will be on this paddle there will most likely be a social hour after the paddle for anyone who would like to join us.

Monday, June 12, 1:00 pm

Bike – Bearskin State Trail

Let's bike the Bearskin State Trail from the highway K trailhead parking lot west of Rhinelander starting at 1:00 p.m. We will bike up to the Blue Lake picnic area heading north toward Minocqua. The South Blue Lake rest area is about the center of the trail system which is approximately 9 miles from our starting point. This spot on the lake has restrooms, water, grills and picnic tables. The trail surface is packed crushed granite and suitable for most bicycles including e-bikes. This trail is unique because we will be biking over the picturesque Bearskin Creek on 10 old railroad trestles. There is no other state trail like it in Wisconsin. After relaxing at Blue Lake we will bike back to our vehicles. Bring a water bottle and snacks, and insect repellent which may not be necessary, but you never know. More info. can be found at dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/bearskin/recreation which you will find a map

Wednesday, June 28, 6:00-8:00 am

Wild and Scenic Film Fest

Three Lakes Center for the Arts

Thursday, June 29, 1:00-5:00 pm

Bike – Crystal Lake

This will be NPT's second bike ride this summer. This time we are heading up to the Boulder Junction area to bike on the all-paved trail from Crystal Lake Campground to the North Trout Lake Campground. We will meet at the Crystal Lake beach parking lot at 1:00 p.m. We will take a relaxing bike ride through the Northern Highlands State Forest along the shores of South Trout Lake to Cathedral Point to rest and enjoy the scenery. This is a great place to swim or wade in the lake. From there we can continue along the shores of North Trout Lake to its campground. It is always a good idea to wear a biking helmet, bring a water bottle and snacks. Your vehicle will need a state park sticker which can be purchased at the entrance building to Crystal Lake Campground if you do not have one. There is the possibility of a social hour after the ride for those who wish to participate.

Thursday, July 6, 1:00-5:00 am

Paddle - Tomahawk River

Willow Flowage Dam to Swamp Lake Road (North of Tomahawk, WI)

Hi future paddlers - NPT's fourth paddle this summer will be on the Tomahawk River west of Rhinelander. Thursday, July 6th, at 1:00 p.m. The stretch of river we will paddle is from the Willow Flowage Dam down to Swamp Lake Road which is app. 10 river miles. We meet at the Willow Flowage Dam parking lot downstream from the dam at 1:00 p.m. We will drop our boats/gear there and shuttle vehicles to the landing on Swamp Lake Road. Bring your boat, paddle, water bottle, bug spray (may not be needed) snacks, extra pair of clothes, and pfd. A PFD is required to be in each boat per person. On all my paddles, plan on getting wet feet. The Wisconsin DNR over many years has been purchasing property on both sides of the river to protect it from development. You'll see some development at the beginning of the trip (some homes/cabins), but overall, the scenery will be forest and wetlands typical of northern Wisconsin. It's not uncommon to see a variety of wildlife along the way. During the first 1/4 of our adventure we come to Halfbreed Rapids which is a couple hundred yards long. Depending on the water volume, Halfbreed is classified as a class II rapids. At this point we will get out and scout the rapids for run ability. Depending on water depth and one's experience/skill level in moving water, you may wish to portage around the rapids. We will all help each other in doing the portage, so it will not be a big deal to get our boats and gear below the rapids. After the portage, back in the boats and continue downstream to the takeout on Swamp Lake Road. Directions to the dam: Coming from Rhinelander take Hwy K (road construction still possible) to Hwy 51. Cross Hwy 51 onto Swamp Lake Road. Take Swamp Lake Road (travelling west) to Hwy Y (turn right (travelling north) to Willow Dam Road (turn left) and continue on Willow Dam Road to the Dam. Go across the dam and the entrance of the large boat parking lot is on the right. I am driving a red Tacoma pickup truck with a topper/black rack on top. I hope you can join us as we continue enjoying the many adventures offered by NPT.

July 9 – 12

Kickapoo River Paddle/Elroy-Sparta Bike/Camping Adventure

This three-day event will take us to the Driftless Area of southwestern Wisconsin. The Kickapoo River is approximately 3 hours and 30 min from Rhinelander and runs through the hamlet of Ontario, Wisconsin. It is a slow moving, shallow, meandering river that all NPT members would be able to handle in their kayaks or canoes. We will camp together in the group campground for three nights at Wildcat Mountain State Park which is close to the put-in. The park can accommodate tents, and recreational vehicles. There is no electricity in the group campground, but there is in the family campground. There are also showers at the park. The Elroy-Sparta Trail is within easy driving distance from the park and would be biked on our second day. This bike trail has the distinction of being the first "rail to trail" created in the United States. This is a

32-mile trail but we don't need to do the whole thing. But what we want to do is to bike to the three railroad tunnels on the trail. The longest one is 3/4 of a mile long and must be walked, so bring a flashlight. Also, close to the park is the Kickapoo Valley Reserve with its 8,600 rolling acres of its own walking and biking trails. Plan to arrive on Sunday, July 9th and set up camp before 11:00 p.m. Paddle on Monday 10th from Bridge 4 to Bridge 12 (Hwy 33) app. 5 hours with rest stops. PFDs are required in each boat for each person. Bike the Elroy/Sparta on Tuesday, 11th. Wednesday, July 12 we will break camp and travel back home. There will be a lot of free time to relax, socialize, hike, explore the Kickapoo Reserve, trout fish, etc. So, there is plenty to do, and some folks might want to spend more than three days recreating in this area.

Sunday, July 23, 7:30-9:00 am

Hike – Holmboe & Coffee

Hike Holmboe Nature Preserve. .75 mile but we can do it more than once or do the short and long loop to add steps. Unpaved, varied terrain. Walk followed by option to go to restaurant for breakfast/coffee. Park in back of Taylor Park Healthcare at 903 Boyce Drive (off Hwy 17).

Tuesday, July 25, 5:00-7:00 pm

Paddle – Harrison Flowage

Northern Paddle & Trail (NPT) seventh paddle this summer, will take us to the Harrison Flowage south of Rhinelander in Lincoln County. 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. If you're interested in observing Bryozoans, make sure to join us on this paddle. Also, your northern native aquatic plants are abundant. Harrison Flowage is approximately 9.5 miles south from Rhinelander. 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.

Friday, July 28, 9:30-noon

Bike – Three Eagle Trail

Bicycle Three Eagles Trail in Vilas County starting at parking area at 128 Sundstein Rd, Eagle River, WI. taralila.org hard packed sandstone trail with interesting boardwalks and forest & wetland variety. Pit toilet is about 1/4 mile up the trail from the parking lot. 16-17 miles round trip. Participants wanting to do shorter miles can turn around at any time. Ice cream stop in Three Sisters.

Wednesday, August 2, 5:00-8:00 pm

Paddle – Baker Lake to Tamarack Flowage

Northern Paddle and Trail's eighth paddle this summer will be this Wednesday, August 2 at 5:00- 8:00 p.m. Baker Lake to Little Tamarack Flowage to Spring Lake. This is a flat-water paddle on app. 370 acres of water which includes bogs, wetlands, water trails and open water paddling. You will see some houses on the east side of Little Tamarack Flowage but the majority of the paddle is woodland. If you like white and yellow lily pads, you'll see a lot of them. This is a good opportunity to use your binoculars for birds and beaver activity. Pay attention to the number of beaver lodges you see. Remember to bring your PFD (a requirement for all paddles). Baker Lake boat landing (fire #6100) is an app. 1 hour drive (about 50 minutes) north of Rhinelander. Directions: (Google maps type in Baker Lake Conover Wisconsin). From Rhinelander travel north on Hwy 17 to Eagle River. From Eagle River, travel north on Hwy 45 toward Conover. Just before Conover turn left onto Hwy K and travel a few miles to Hwy S and

turn right. Follow Hwy S and turn left onto Baker Lake Road (gravel if I remember correctly). The state boat landing is on the right side of the lake.

Friday, August 18, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Paddle – Wisconsin River

Hi future paddlers - This will be our ninth paddle this summer. So plan on joining the group to paddle the Wisconsin River below Rhinelander on Friday, August 18th from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. This stretch of the Wisconsin is mostly a wilderness setting, probably resembling the landscape back in the early 1900's. You'll encounter almost no signs of "civilization" along this approximately 9-10 mile stretch. There can be a great variety of paddling excitement depending on the water level. A paddler with intermediate skills should be able to handle this water. Contact me if you need more information and what you might expect on the river. Not too far down from the put in will be some fun moving water (grade I or II) with an island directly ahead. We will all get out and scout the drop on the left side of the Island. Those wishing can paddle the drop (which is fun) and those that choose not to can portage the short distance to the bottom of the drop. There will be small rapids (grade I) and quiet water through most of the trip. We will put in at the Camp 10 landing on Camp 10 road off of CO Hwy A and take out at the end of Rollies Road (DNR landing). Because of the remoteness of the river there are not a lot of road bridges so we will have an approximate 27 minute shuttle (one way) to leave the majority of the vehicles. Directions to put in: From the intersection of Hwy 8 & 17 west of Rhinelander, take Hwy 17 south and turn right onto Hwy A heading west toward Tomahawk. Approximately 5 miles on Hwy A (pass Squaw Lake Road on the left) will be Camp Ten road on the right. Drive a short distance on Camp 10 Road and the landing will be on the right. Depending on water levels I figure the trip should be about 4 1/2 hours plus shuttle time. There will be an opportunity for a social event after the paddle seeing that there are two establishments nearby on Hwy A. What to bring: boat, paddle, PFD (required), dry clothes, hat, sunscreen, bug repellent (may not need), raingear, your lunch/snacks, water, etc.

Wednesday, August 23, 3:00 pm

Bike – Manitowish Waters Bike Trail

This bike trip will take us on the paved bike trail system between the communities of Boulder Junction and Manitowish Waters. You will be biking approximately 12 miles one way (24 miles round trip). We will be biking on a small portion of the all-paved Heart of Vilas County Bike Trail System which can take you from Mercer all the way to Saint Germain. That is approximately 50 miles of smooth sailing on a bike! Let's meet at the intersection of CO Hwy H and CO Hwy K a couple of miles west of Boulder Junction. At the intersection you will find a small park with restrooms and parking. Bring a bike, helmet, water bottle and snacks for this relaxing ride.

Friday-Saturday, August 25-26, All Day

Fungi Fest at Kemp Research Station

Lake Tomahawk

Monday, August 28, 5:00-8:00 am

Paddle – Wisconsin River

Join us for yet another paddle. We will be doing our second Wisconsin River adventure, this time north of Rhinelander. Paddle the Wisconsin River on Monday, August 28th from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. We will gather at the put-in at the McNaughton Bridge landing and drop off our boats and gear. From there we will shuttle vehicles to the Apperson Drive boat landing about 3 miles 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. Directions: From Rhinelander take Hwy 47 north to Bridge Road (turn right) and follow to the boat landing on the right. Bring your boat, paddle, PFD (required), snacks, water bottle.

Monday, September 11, 7:00 pm

Speaker series Courting and Mating Rituals of Birds

Discovery Center, Manitowish Waters

Friday, September 15, 2:00-5:00 pm

Bittersweet Wild Lakes

The Bittersweet Wild Lakes Area is within the Northern Highlands State Forest and located a few miles east of Woodruff-Arbor Vitae. These 1,070 remote wildernesses contain four small undeveloped lakes that are connected by short portages of only 300 to 600 feet. We will help each other with the portages so don't worry about that. This area contains motor free paddling and provides remote camping opportunities. Let's meet at the first parking area at 2:00 p.m. For more information and a map, google: Northern Wisconsin Recreation>Bittersweet Wild Lakes Area. Directions from Rhinelander: Take Hwy 47 north to Hwy 51 (turn right). Travel north on Hwy 51 to the intersection of Hwy 51 & 70 east (turn right) at the Kwik Trip gas station. App. 3.3 miles turn left into the parking area off Hwy 70.

Saturday, October 28, 3:00 pm hunt starts, 5:45 pm potluck starts

The Annual NPT scavenger hunt, hike & potluck!

Join us at the Judy Swank, Perch Lake Shelter. Saturday October 28th: The scavenger hunt starts at 3:00 pm. The potluck starts at 5:45. We have lots of fun searching along the trails. Join with several other members & see which team finds the most critters. 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.

Directions: Take County Road K west of Rhinelander; Turn Left onto Washburn Lake Road; then Left onto Trout Creek Road; (when the black top ends) turn right onto County Park Road; the parking lot is at the end of the road

Saturday, December 2, 10:30 am

Winter Hike – Enterprise Recreation Trail

Northern Paddle and Trail (NPT) is planning a winter hike on the Enterprise hiking/snowshoe recreation. We will hike the 4-mile loop trail which will take us through a variety of forest habitats. There are no major hills or high elevations to navigate which makes for an easy relaxing hike. There shouldn't be enough snow for snowshoes, so winter boots should work. The trail is approximately 8 miles south of the intersection of Hwy 8 and Hwy G (Nicolet College) from Rhinelander. Open the attachment which has a map of the trail. We will meet at 10:30 a.m. in the established parking lot off of Hwy G. Bring water and a snack as you drink and munch your way along the trail with old and new friends.

Wednesday, December 20, 10:30 am

Moccasin Hiking/Snowshoe Trail

Let's meet at the Moccasin parking lot at 10:30 a.m. The trail is located 3 miles west of Elcho. I recently walked the Moccasin Hiking Trail and found the 3-mile loop dry and easy walking. For those of you that like to hike in tennis shoes, this trail was built for you. There are more trails at Moccasin that can be hiked if we want to add on more miles. For those who want to add on yet another social experience after the hike, there are several establishments in Elcho which we

can check out. Go to langladeforestryandparks.com and search Moccasin Lake Recreation Area and you can download a trail map. Bring water and a snack along for yourself.