



CONNECTIONS

JANUARY 2004

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www.northerngreatlakescenter.org

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For meeting rooms and reservations at the Center call the Center Reception Desk at 715-685-9983

CONNECTIONS Newsletter is published by the Friends of the Center Alliance Ltd. (FOCAL).

Horsin' Around at the Center!

The Visitor Center hosted a **Sleigh and Cutter Rally** January 10th sponsored by the Northwoods Harness Club and Ashland Chamber of Commerce. This event kicked off the City of Ashland Sesquicentennial Celebration. The Visitor Center grounds came alive with antique horse-drawn sleighs and costumed drivers and passengers wearing 1800's vintage clothing. This event was fun for spectators and participants alike!



Hundreds of spectators braved the cold wind to watch drivers put their horses through their paces. Over 30 teams competed in the event. Sleighs and horses were decorated with ornate wood trim and bells.



POW-MIA Flag Ceremony



The VFW Post 9665 of Washburn officially raised the MIA-POW flag at the Center on November 18th. This flag symbolizes the sacrifice some veterans have paid for our nation's freedom. The MIA-POW flag bears a black silhouette, watch tower and barbed wire. This flag joins the State and U.S. flags at the entrance to the Center.

Special Winter Olympics

The Visitor Center will be hosting a **Special Winter Olympics** event on January 24th. Participants will be competing in snowshoe and cross-country ski events on the Center grounds. Volunteers are needed to help run events. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the event coordinator, Dick Green at 682-2118.



Participants and event coordinators practice snowshoeing on the Center trails.

Joseph E. Beedlow

With great sadness the staff at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center announce the death of Joseph (Joe) Beedlow, age 53. Joe passed away unexpectedly on December 29, 2003 at St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth, Minnesota after a brief illness.

Joe began his National Park Service (NPS) career in 1996 as an Interpretive Park Ranger at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. He was one of the first NPS employees to serve visitors at the new facility. His love of the outdoors and Lake Superior region were a perfect fit with the mission of the interagency center.

Joe served in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1969 to 1973 and was stationed in Bayfield, Wisconsin, Duluth and Grand Marais, Minnesota and Baffin Island, Northwest Territories in Canada. He was a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Stout with a bachelors degree in Hospitality Management/Tourism. Joe served as an instructor in the Hospitality Management/Tourism program at the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College in Ashland for 14 years prior to his appointment with the NPS.

A memorial service was held on Saturday January 3, 2004 at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Ashland, Wisconsin. Joe will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



Joe Beedlow, NPS Park Ranger, demonstrating knot-tying techniques during a Kids Fishing Day event.

The Changing Mouth of Whittlesey Creek

Over time the course of Whittlesey Creek has changed, as we can verify via maps, photographs and aerial images, first-hand accounts, and landscape features. Since the original land survey map for the area was published in 1856, a sand delta as been expanding and the alignment of the mouth has varied. This became quite evident in May 2003 when the main outlet for the past few decades went dry. The flow found a historic channel to the south.

U W-Extension kayak groups were surprised to land on the beach and find the dry streambed! The switch was short-lived, however. In the fall of 2003, beavers dammed the south channel and flow was diverted back to the “dry” channel.



It will be interesting to see if the beaver dam survives the spring floods and which will be Whittlesey Creek's main channel in the months and years to come. Seeing changes such as these are an excellent learning opportunity. Changes to landscape features are often far slower and less dramatic.

Craft Demonstrators Wanted!

Are you a quilter, basket maker, fly tier, wood carver, snowshoe maker, or, in short, do you have a traditional skill that you would be willing to share with our visitors?

The Visitor Center is interested in local artists and crafters to demonstrate their skill during the spring through fall visitor season.



If you are interested in scheduling a demonstration or would like more information, please call Susan Nelson at 715.685.2644.

Try Snowshoeing at the Center

Snowshoeing is a great winter family or group activity. If you have never snowshoed before and would like give it a try, come on out to the Center. We have a small inventory of snowshoes that we lend out for use on the Center's 180-acre property. It's a fine way to enjoy the peace, solitude, and beauty of winter.

E-mail Program

If you would like to be notified about upcoming Center programs by e-mail, just stop in to the Front Desk at the Center and fill out the form. For every public program we will e-mail the description, time, date, and place before the program is to be held.

Check us out On-line!

Check out the Visitor Center's website for a complete listing of upcoming programs and events at www.northerngreatlakescenter.org.

Tune to 1610 AM

The Center's 1610 AM radio station is updated weekly to provide you with information about Center programs and events. If you live in the Ashland or Washburn area or passing through, tune into 1610 AM to find out what is happening at the Center for the coming week.

Town of Eileen Prepares for Centennial Celebration

The Town of Eileen Centennial celebration is planned for June 11-12, 2004 at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. Neighbors are talking! Folks are visiting! Siblings compare notes!

Family members are calling each other for more information! All this in order to provide the Centennial Committee with facts and stories and photos that will be woven into this gala celebration of the Town's past.

The Town Centennial committee, with about 30 members, meets monthly at the Visitor Center, with sixteen subcommittees meeting as needed during the week. Former or current Town of Eileen residents or family members are encouraged to contact Co-Chairs Jim Miller at 715-682-6543 or Sally Klug at 715-682-5947 if they would like to share information on their family history.



Town of Eileen volunteers organize family histories for the celebration.

Nori Newago, representing the Northern Wisconsin Heritage Connection located at the Visitor Center, is acting as facilitator for the planning committees. For more information contact Nori call 715-685-2646 or email nnewago@centurytel.net.

On Saturday, January 9th and 10th, town crafters provided a quilting demonstration at the Center. Two quilts and a wall hanging, featuring local barns, will be part of the list of prizes on the raffle ticket.



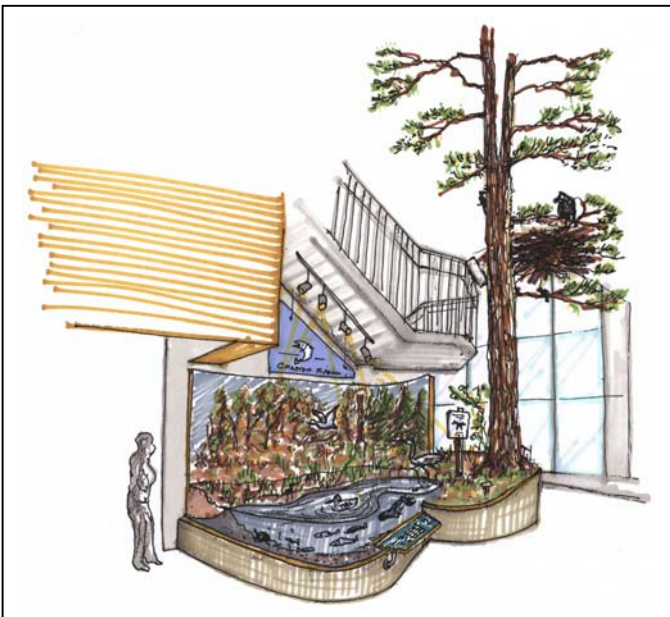
Marion and John Jarecki demonstrated quilt tying at the Visitor Center as part of the Town of Eileen's Centennial.

As the history of this community is revealed and recorded, a real sense of pride and excitement grows within the town. The schools, farms, businesses and especially the people who settled in this area present a mosaic of ethnic diversity, along with common goals and wisdom that has sustained the Town of Eileen.

New Refuge Exhibit Coming to Center

On Monday, March 15, 2004 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be opening their newest exhibit, at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, depicting the Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge. A ribbon cutting and short dedication at 1:30 pm will officially open the life-like replica of the refuge and interactive displays. Interested public are welcome to attend the ceremony.

Anyone unable to attend are encouraged to come see what is new at the Visitor Center and experience the great outdoors around the center and on refuge lands. For more information contact Katie Goodwin at (715) 685-2645 or e-mail katie_goodwin@fws.gov



Visitors will get a life-like peek into the underwater world of Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge. This is a part of the new interactive Refuge exhibit at the Visitor Center.

Catch the Spirit!

Birds, puppets and bears, "OH MY!" These are just a few of the items you will find at "*Spirit of the North*", the Visitor Center's unique store. If you haven't stopped in lately you are in for a nice surprise! The shelves are full of great titles on nature, Native American history, field guides, regional favorites and of course many books for kids.

The store carries a wide variety of clothing designed and made locally, including tee shirts, dresses and cardigans, and a specially designed sweatshirt with our "*Spirit of the North*" logo. Kids items include stuffed animals, nature explorer toys, finger puppets and much more.

The "*Spirit of the North*" is owned and operated by The Friends of the Center, a non-profit educational organization. Proceeds from profits help support programs and exhibits at the Visitor Center.



Store Manager, Donna Kurilla, models the new line of clothing exclusive to "*Spirit of the North*."

Connections Newsletter is published by the Friends of the Center Alliance, Ltd.

Contributors for this issue are:

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Nori Newago	Susan Nelson
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Editor: Susan Nelson



Upcoming Programs at the Center

January 30 and 31, 7:30 p.m.

American Splendor

Bay Area Film Society

Harvey Peckar is a pessimistic file clerk with no hope of ever rising above his boring job, slobbish apartment, and bad attitude.

Wonderfully set in his ways, Pekar's constant self-deprecation is clearly a front for his prolific interests in music and art. When his friend Robert Crumb (James Urbaniak) gets his big break as a comic book artist, Pekar decides to try his hand at the craft. Though he can't illustrate, his stories are good, and Crumb agrees to help draw the pictures. Soon several artists are illustrating Pekar's American Splendor series, and the comic book's readership grows. The film continues through the events of Pekar's life--meeting wife Joyce Brabner, appearing on David Letterman, struggling with cancer, and adopting a daughter--always showing Pekar's no-frills approach to life. A creative and punchy film, AMERICAN SPLENDOR invites viewers into the odd world of Pekar and his comic-book antihero persona.

\$5.00 General \$4.00 Students and Members

February 3, 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Winter Sleep- Preschool Program

Pre-registration required by prior Friday by calling Sarah at 373-5625.

February 12, 7:00 p.m.

Chequamegon Audubon Program

Bear Tracks- Jeff Rennie

From the mists of the Great Smokey mountains to the grizzlies of Russia, bear tracks have always wound through the life of this outdoor writer. Share tales and stories of bear encounters from two decades of traveling and writing in bear country.

February 20 and 21, 7:30p.m.

Swimming Pool

Bay Area Film Society

Sarah Morton (Charlotte Rampling) is a famous British mystery author. Tired of London and seeking inspiration for her new novel, she accepts an offer from her publisher John Bosload (Charles Dance) to stay at his home in Lubéron, in the South of France. It is the off-season, and Sarah finds that the beautiful country locale and unhurried pace is just the tonic for her – until late one night, when John's indolent and insouciant French daughter Julie (Ludivine Sagnier) unexpectedly arrives. Sarah's prim and steely English reserve is jarred by Julie's reckless, sexually charged lifestyle. Their interactions set off an increasingly unsettling series of events, as Sarah's creative process and a possible real-life murder begin to blend dangerously together.

\$5.00 General \$4.00 Students and Members

March 2, 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Ojibwe Story Time- Preschool Program

Pre-registration required by prior Friday by calling Sarah at 373-5625

March 5 and 6 , 7:30p.m.

TBA

Bay Area Film Society

\$5.00 General \$4.00 Students and Members

March 11, 7:00p.m.

Chequamegon Audubon Program

Geology & Geologic History of Lake Superior

Join Tom Fitz, Assistant Professor of Geoscience at Northland College to learn about the geologic formations and the history of the amazing Lake Superior Basin.