

MESSENGER

Native Seed
Collecting
September 7

Glaciers All
Around Us
September 10

Camp Fat Tire
for Kids
September 14

Non-Lead Ammo
Test Day
September 21

Chili Feed and
Antler Scoring
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September 21



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For More Information

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www.cablemuseum.org

Say Hello to Digger

By *Katie Connolly, Naturalist/Curator*

Our Curiosity Center has a new resident. The next time you are in the Museum, stop and meet Digger, a Western Hognose Snake. He's the little guy hanging out in the big terrarium.

Digger arrived at the Cable Natural History Museum in early June to assume his animal ambassador position. We purchased him from a breeder of captive reptiles in Florida, and he was shipped up to northern Wisconsin by FedEx overnight. So far he has been adjusting well to his new home, and he is often seen burrowing his nose in the wood chips on the bottom of his tank.

That is how he got the name "Digger."

I keep using the term "he," but we don't actually know if Digger is a boy or girl yet! In a few months we should have a better idea. I'm almost sure Digger is male, but still, "he" may be a "she!"

Western hognose snakes are not usually found in Wisconsin. However, their close cousin, the Eastern Hognose Snake, does reside here. Western hognose snakes do much better in captivity than their eastern counterparts, and have been bred as pets for many years. They do not mind being handled and do not require a specialized diet. For these reasons we decided a

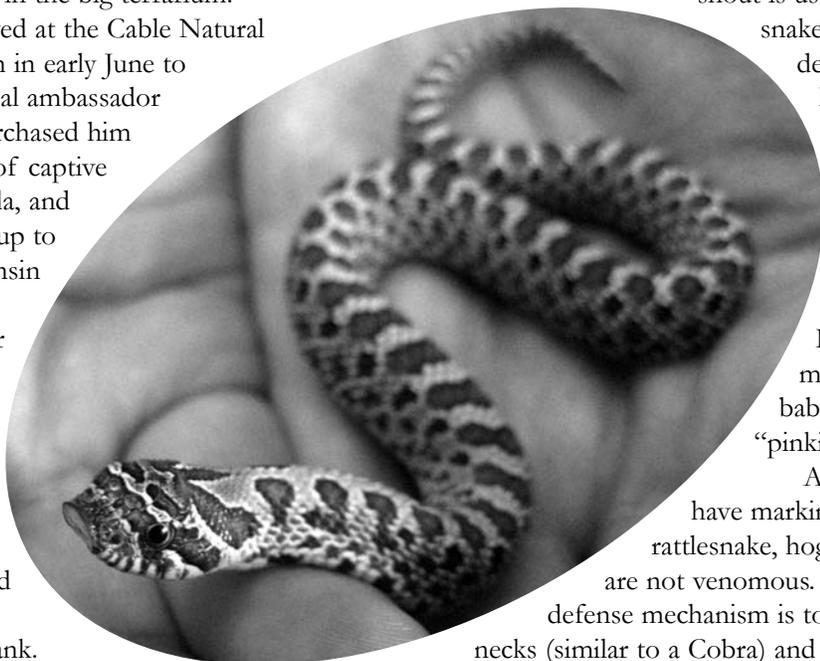
Western hognose snake would be a good addition to our staff.

Hognose snakes get their name from their upturned rostral scale on their nose. Their pig-like snout is used to help the snake move through debris and leaf litter in dry upland areas. They prey on toads and other amphibians in the wild, but Digger eats mostly day-old baby mice, called "pinkies."

Although they have markings similar to a rattlesnake, hognose snakes are not venomous. Their primary defense mechanism is to puff out their necks (similar to a Cobra) and hiss loudly, giving them the nickname "puff adder." If this display does not deter a predator, the snake will roll on its back and play dead, going as far as to emit foul smelling scent from its cloaca and even hang its tongue out of its mouth!

One of Digger's main jobs is to help educate the public about the benefits of snakes in the Northwoods. While some people might fear or be repulsed by snakes, they do not pose a threat to us. They help keep pest populations down, especially in agricultural areas that are marauded by rodents. They are also beautiful critters that should be admired, not feared.

Digger loves visitors, so stop by soon to meet him! 🐍



Museum membership makes a great gift!

Looking for a unique gift for family or friends? Consider giving the gift of a Museum membership for their next birthday or holiday. They will receive free admission, discounts in the Museum Shop and on program fees, and the knowledge that they are supporting valuable educational opportunities for all ages! 🐍

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January 1 through July 15, 2013

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Museum Happenings

CNHM Welcomes Summer Interns

By Katie Connolly, Naturalist/ Curator

The Cable Natural History Museum is very fortunate to have two amazing Naturalist Interns this summer. They have been extremely busy at the Museum! You can find them leading Junior Naturalist programs, being docents at the front desk, planning and weeding a new butterfly garden, and much more!



Naturalist Intern Kellie Solberg

Melissa Hogfeldt is majoring in Broad Field Science and Biology at Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin. Melissa appreciates being incorporated into the Museum's family, and feels welcome and appreciated in the Cable community as well.

Kellie Solberg is majoring in Biology and Environmental Science at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. This is the farthest north she has lived in Wisconsin, and she loves the scenery of the Northwoods.

Both Melissa and Kellie have enjoyed their time here, and love working with the Junior Naturalists. This year the Junior Naturalist float in the Fourth of July parade won first place in its category, thanks to Melissa and Kellie's leadership. Both interns agree that leading the Junior Naturalists has given them a new found appreciation for their former teachers. The kids are fun to work with, but they can be exhausting! The next time you're in the Museum, be sure to stop by meet these fantastic interns. We wish them the best of luck with their college studies and beyond! 🐾



Melissa Hogfeldt, Naturalist Intern, helps a Junior Naturalist read her lines in a skit about nocturnal animals.

Deer Camp Exhibit a Huge Success!

By Katie Connolly, Naturalist/ Curator

Deer Camp, our newest exhibit at the Cable Natural History Museum, has been receiving rave reviews. Since its opening in May, many members and visitors have stopped in to see what all the talk has been about.

White-tailed deer are woven into our everyday life here in the Northwoods. These animals are contributors to our local and state economy. They play an essential role in our natural community. They also pose a potential threat to our gardens and crops. Whether you love 'em or hate 'em, deer play an inextricable role in the cultural and natural history of Northern Wisconsin. It is only fitting that the Cable Natural History Museum hosts an exhibit on this iconic animal.

Adults and kids coming into the exhibit have a wide variety of backgrounds, and thus have different perspectives on white-tailed deer and deer hunting. The exhibit has seen hunters, non-hunters, gardeners, land-owners, students, vegetarians, residents, non-residents, and more. Visitors have commented on how much they have learned after spending time in the exhibit. Even well-seasoned hunters, who have spent many hours in a deer stand studying this animal, have walked away with a new bit of knowledge.

Deer Camp wouldn't be such a success without our hard-working, dedicated volunteers who contributed their time and talent. A big thanks goes out to everyone who helped on the exhibit committee or spent time at the Museum to help build it.

A group of students wrote in our Guest Book that the exhibit was very "En-DEER-ing!" I think many of our visitors have felt the same way after visiting Deer Camp. 🐾



Museum Happenings

Junior Naturalists 2013

By *Katie Connolly, Naturalist/Curator*

Every Tuesday and Wednesday morning our Junior Naturalists pour through the doors, eager to learn and, most importantly, have fun. They fill the Museum with infectious laughter and positive energy. I cannot help but feel like a “Junior” Naturalist myself!

Our Junior Naturalists have had a great time this summer. They learned about animal tracks and made plaster casts of footprints. They discussed why water is important, and celebrated with an epic water balloon fight! They learned about nocturnal animals and what makes them so special. They even acquired survival skills to stay alive in the wilderness. And in the midst of all this, they played fun games and made new friends.

The Junior Naturalist Program is truly a team effort. This summer we had two awesome interns leading our young naturalists: Melissa Hogfeldt and Kellie Solberg. Thanks to them, our Junior Naturalists had an amazing summer program they will remember for years to come. 🐸



Junior Naturalists show off their awesome amphibians.

IMLS Grant Update

By *Katie Connolly, Naturalist/Curator*

It has been one year since we were awarded the Museums for America Grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services. You might have noticed a few changes around the Museum, such as...

- New exhibit cases in the classroom hallway
- Glass windows installed in the doors to the collections room
- A new cataloging computer

There are even more things happening behind the scenes. I have been taking online courses in collections management, and I attended the American Alliance of Museum’s annual conference in Baltimore in May. Knowledge gained from these classes and the conference is being applied to how we manage the collections here at the Museum.

Funds from the grant were also used to hire a Collections Assistant. Diane Kraemer, a local resident, has been helpful with helping to catalog, document, and photograph so many specimens. Thank you Diane! I’m very happy with how things are going with the grant, and feel our collections storage conditions and practices are improving every day. Thanks to this grant, we will be able to preserve and protect our collections for generations to come. 🐸

2014 Exhibit Preview : Nature’s Superheroes

By *Emily Stone, Naturalist/Educator*

The Museum’s 2014 main exhibit will be “Nature’s Superheroes.” This exhibit will focus on the “superhero powers” of plant and animal adaptations. Twelve plants and animals from the local Northwoods ecosystem with unique adaptations will be chosen as “Nature’s Superheroes” to be highlighted in the exhibit. Think about echolocation in bats, super strength in ants, and stronger-than-steel spider silk. In addition, the exhibit will highlight each organism’s “kryptonite,” or greatest threat to its survival, and ways that you, its “sidekick,” can help through conservation actions.

If our grant funding comes through, we will hire an artist to draw a giant comic of each superhero for the exhibit and publish a Nature’s Superheroes comic book using the exhibit art. In addition, we will plan events that allow you chances to be a “sidekick.” All of these components together will build awareness for natural resource conservation with students and the public, help participants develop their personal connection to nature, and provide opportunities for action on conservation issues.

If you have ideas of service projects that will allow people to be “sidekicks” to nature, please contact me at emily@cablemuseum.org. I am also looking for interested volunteers to be on the exhibit committee, which plans and builds the exhibit. 🐸

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Deer Detectives Learn a Lot!

By Emily Stone, Naturalist/Educator

School field trips filled the Museum with oodles of youthful energy this May and June, as almost 600 students from thirteen local schools came here to learn about deer. In the Outdoor Classroom, we asked the questions, “Do deer live in the Outdoor Classroom?” “What does a deer need in its habitat?” “What animal signs would a good Deer Detective look for to determine if deer had been there?”

Inside, volunteers Larry Hanson and Joe Brady showed the kids around the Deer Camp exhibit, and wowed them with facts about deer biology. Intrepid volunteers Larry and Vivianne Hanke and Donna Post sliced, drilled, and sanded an antler medallion for each student, then Intern Cathy Zimmerman instructed kids in making necklaces with the medallion and beads on a leather cord.

Our new Museum Assistant, Jayme Morey, jumped right in to help wherever she could, and did a fantastic job leading games and activities. Naturalists Katie Connolly and Emily Stone kept everyone on schedule while teaching various lessons themselves. Field trip season is a busy time at the Museum, and we couldn't do it without our awesome volunteers! Thanks!

As a testament to the quality and value of our field trips, teachers gave us some wonderful feedback. “We chose your museum because it gives us a local, relatively inexpensive, and interesting site to visit. We have enjoyed our past trips as well.” Another teacher agreed about the very reasonable \$3/child field trip fee, saying: “Great value for our price. Our student have fun and learn.”

Teachers also love our field trips because our “lessons were excellent—easy to follow, held students attention,” “The lessons were very supportive of our classwork,” and “The kids were very engaged.”

After all the time and hard work we put into designing the field trips, it is wonderful to get this feedback. As one teacher wrote, “your museum and staff always amaze me.” They amaze me, too!

As schools experience tighter budgets, additional funding for field trips is always welcome. Please consider contributing to our scholarship fund! 🦌



A visiting school group gets the Deer Camp experience.

Meet Leslie Strapon, the Museum's new Office Manager/Bookkeeper



I grew up in beautiful Stillwater, Minn., moving to this area after I graduated from the University of Minnesota-Duluth in Geology. I started a decorative painting business and still do jobs now and again. I served a couple terms on the CHARAC Board and served as President for two years. I've spent most of the last 10 years as Assistant Executive Director for the Hayward Area Chamber of Commerce, as well as working for the Cable Area Chamber of Commerce. My husband Derec and I have two small children, Wyatt (3) and Evelyn (1). They keep me very busy and highly entertained! We live in Seeley, have a few dogs, a couple cats, and recently added some chickens to our zoo. The past couple years I have been doing bookkeeping and working for the American Birkebeiner. I love to read, paint, paddle and play with my children. I'm happy to be a new member of the team here at the Museum. 🦌

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- Williamson Chiropractic
- Winter Greenhouse
- Xcel Energy

A Variety of Learning

By *Emily Stone, Naturalist/Educator*

Variety is the spice of life, and also the theme of this year's 48th annual Joseph Jenkins Lecture Series. We began the series on Wednesday, July 10, with a wonderful performance by local musician and storyteller, Kevin McMullin. He made us laugh with songs about the inauspicious town of



Kevin McMullin imitates stubborn Turtle as he builds an army to fight the humans. Kevin's animated style and wonderful music made for a wonderful night. Photo by Emily Stone

Sarona, a Chinese finger dance, and a story about Turtle. Do you know why Turtle doesn't paddle a canoe and go to war against humans anymore? It has to do with skunk, snake, and a very smart woman. "We tried to make the 'turtle face' all the way home in the car," giggled intern Kellie Solberg.

Museum Naturalist Katie Connolly hosted a lecture about a high school teacher's collaboration with the DNR's deer research project, to complement our Deer Camp exhibit. Tracy Swedlund captivated the audience with descriptions of capturing and tagging fawns. "He described how the mother will stand very close to the researchers and stamp her foot, while more deer will gather at the edge of the field and stamp their feet, too," recollected Melissa Hogfeldt. "I hadn't realized how much they will stick around to protect the fawn."

Dr. Paul Goellner, a retired family practice physician from Spooner, drew our largest crowd on July 24. Eighty people gathered to learn about the biology and ecology of Lyme disease from the first person to recognize it in Wisconsin.

"For every answer there are two or three more questions," he said. He warned "you are all at risk," but also emphasized that no one has died of Lyme disease that he is aware of, and that your body will eventually overcome the disease on its own, even if you don't get treated. "It's not fun, it doesn't feel good, but you'll get over it," he reassured us.

The series wrapped up with a lecture by Britt Bunyard, PhD, Editor-in-Chief of FUNGI magazine on the fascinating world of fungi. We'll share more about that in the winter newsletter. The Joseph Jenkins Lectures have a long history of entertaining and informing audiences on topics of local concern. If you have ideas or requests for next summer's lectures, please contact Emily Stone at emily@cablemuseum.org.

A Fantastic Garden Tour Event

The 2013 Garden Tour sponsored by the Museum on July 13 was a great success. Over 145 people purchased tickets and toured six lovely gardens on the self-guided garden circuit. The gardens, selected by this year's tour chair Vivianne Hanke, were concentrated in the Barnes area. All were on waterfront properties and included water features, such as ponds, babbling brooks, and small waterfalls within the gardens.

The wonderful garden hosts who spent many hours preparing their gardens for the big day, greeting visitors, and answering questions were: Mary Jo Scharlau, Rose and Steve Baldwin, Sheryl and Mark Tasler, Mary and Jim Krook, Blaine Olson, and Mary Ringelstetter. Over 21 additional volunteers were on hand to help with greeting guests, traffic flow/parking and countless other tasks. The volunteers and hosts were able to enjoy all six gardens during a planned "pre-tour."

On event day, M&M Greenhouse owners, Mike and Mia Alston, and able assistant Arlyn Posekany, provided a post-tour wrap-up at their greenhouse complete with cold beverages, sweet treats, complimentary native plants, great gardening advice, and plants for purchase. Northern Native Plantscapes and Big Brook Greenhouse in Cable provided financial support for the event. The Museum would like to thank everyone who contributed to making the 2013 Garden Tour a fantastic success and raising nearly \$1,500 toward programming at the Museum.



Garden tour chair Vivianne Hanke, and garden host Mary Jo Scharlau, prepare to meet many visitors at Mary Jo's home on the Eau Claire River.

Our Mission:

Connecting people to Northwoods nature through educational experiences that inspire wonder, discovery, and responsibility.

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Emily Stone
Naturalist/Educator

Katie Connolly
Naturalist/Curator

Leslie Strapon
Office Manager/Bookkeeper

Diane Kraemer
Collections Assistant

Mary Witt
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Jayme Morey
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A Wonderful Summer to FLIP

By Emily Stone, Naturalist/Educator

Catching aquatic invertebrates...trapping turtles...paddling and camping overnight on the Namekagon River...do any of those sound fun to you? Well the 12-18 year olds who participated in our FLIP programs this summer sure had fun!

Retired fisheries biologist from the WDNR, Frank Pratt, helped us kick off the summer. We always hope to involve the kids in electro-shocking fish to survey their populations in the Namekagon River, but with less-than ideal river conditions, we engaged the students in catching aquatic invertebrates instead.

Since the Namekagon River, part of the National Park System, provides such a wonderful outdoor classroom, this summer's FLIP schedule also included two overnight canoe trips on the river. To help cover the cost of food, equipment, gas, and the oodles of Museum staff time involved in making these trips a success, we received a generous grant from the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway Fund of the St. Croix Valley Foundation.

Branda Thwaits, Upper District Interpretive Ranger for the National Park Service in Trego and her staff also helped us immensely with logistics. For one, they used their big truck to haul the canoe trailer! We used canoes from the Canoes on Wheels program, sponsored by the Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters. The Park also provided camping equipment for the students, and real Park Rangers in uniform, to give the kids a world-class experience in their own backyard.

With all this help, I was able to plan and lead two trips and involve 11 kids—one girl even came on both trips! The first trip, in June, followed the same route as last summer's trip. We paddled from the Cable Wayside Landing to the campsite on Pacwawong Lake, and then down to Larsen Landing.

This year we also planned a two-night trip in July, to provide more experienced paddlers with a bigger challenge. For this trip, we journeyed to the lower Namekagon River below Trego. Although we only paddled 16 miles total, the kids were such great paddlers we could have gone much further. Next year we are planning to extend this wonderful Museum/Park Service partnership with a one-night family canoe trip. Would you come? What part of the summer would work best for you?

Our final FLIP adventure of 2013 took us to Tea Lake in the Chequamegon/Nicolet National Forest. There, Ed Moll, retired zoologist, introduced us to "Snagglepuss," the huge snapping turtle he has been trapping and measuring for over 25 years. We set and checked several other turtle traps, caught frogs and salamanders in the woods, and examined the collection of other reptiles and amphibians Ed had gathered for us.

Several years ago, the Forest Lab Intern Program (FLIP) began as a grant-funded program for middle and high school students. After they applied and were accepted, the lucky students were paid to travel around the state learning about natural resource professions and conservation. Kids who participated in that program still come in to the Museum raving about how life-changing it was.

After the grant ended, we decided to keep the Forest Lab Intern Program going as no-cost field trips for kids in grades 6-12. This year, we decided that the word Intern is misleading, based on our current activities, and we are changing it to the Forest Lab Intermediate Program to signify that these students use the forest as their classroom, and are older than Junior Naturalists. Keep looking for more great FLIP programs in the future! 🐾

A Natural Play Area

Imagine a treehouse built into the side of a giant white pine. Step into the skyline up a stairway made of logs. Crawl through a live willow tunnel, or leap over a 70-year-old pine log. Build a fairy house, or visit the salamander room. These are just some of the activities being developed as part of a natural play area that has been developing this summer. Making use of the Museum's Lois Nestel Property, plans are being made to design a play space using natural materials and native vegetation with the land in ways to challenge and fascinate children and families and teach them about the wonders of the natural world while they play within it.

Does the idea intrigue you? Maybe you have an old hollow log on your property that would be ideal for children to crawl through. Museum staff is also looking for volunteers to help build outdoor features of this natural play space. Donations will also be accepted to help purchase materials necessary to fund some the play components. Stay tuned on our website, Facebook, emails or other publications for more information. 🐾



John Kudlas, intrepid Museum volunteer, instructs students about river ecology on the June canoe trip.



Gavin Martell made a spark from flint and steel, blew oxygen into it as it smoldered in his wad of tinder, and coaxed it into flame!



Avtantica D'ruz-Wigren of Asbland made a great bow paddler!

Power of the Purse - New Location and Exciting Raffle!

By L.J. Menzel

The fourth annual Power of the Purse (POP) benefit for exhibit development will be held on October 12, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Flat Creek Inn in Hayward.

This fundraiser has quickly become a highly anticipated event for area women, and last year it netted over \$11,000 to help fund the Museum's educational mission. POP features a silent auction with spirited bidding on fabulous purses and select accessories, followed by a luncheon and speaker. This year, Dr. Christine Thomas will share stories about "Becoming an Outdoors-Woman" and inspire us all to experience new adventures!

We invite everyone to donate purses for the auction. Donations can be dropped off at the Cable Natural History Museum and Firefly Trading Company in Cable, or Outdoor Ventures and Carnegie Kids in Hayward.

This year we are thrilled that David R. Neilson—gemologist, gold smith, and wildlife photographer—has custom-designed a gorgeous dragonfly pendant in yellow and white gold with two ideal cut diamonds, a blue sapphire, and a yellow sapphire on a gold chain.

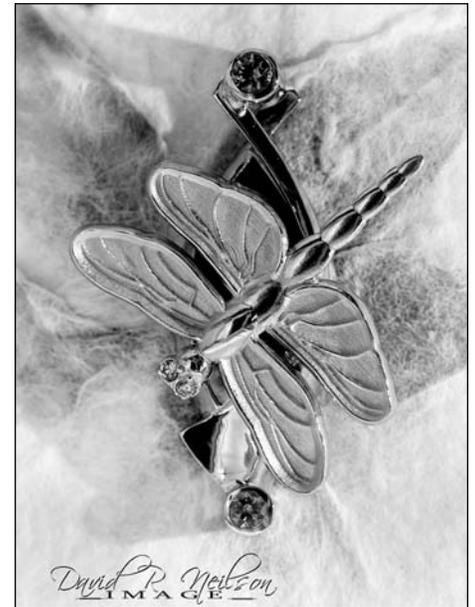
We are grateful to receive this generous gift. The Museum's dragonfly logo inspired this pendant. You may remember that David and Robin had the wonderful Gemstone jewelry store in Stone Lake. The many customers he has worked with from all over the Midwest admire his creations.

Please consider buying raffle tickets for the dragonfly pendant for \$20 each. We are hoping to raise well over the appraised value of \$6,242.44. WOW! One very lucky person will win this piece and everyone who purchases a ticket (or 5, or 10, or more) will be making a great contribution, too!

Tickets will be available starting August 12 at Firefly Trading Company, Art Beat, and the Cable Natural History Museum. Please help us thank this generous donor and support the Museum's important mission!

Find out about Dave Neilson's jewelry and photography at www.gemstonegoldsmiths.com. His studio is now in Trego.

Invitations will be mailed mid-August, or call the Museum at 715-798-3890 to reserve your spot. If you know someone who should receive an invitation, please let us know! 🦋



David Neilson's custom creation features the Museum's familiar dragonfly.



Being a Docent

By Carol Anderson

Being a docent at the Museum has been a totally positive experience. The staff couldn't be nicer and are always ready to help. They are also very appreciative. Although there have been a few things to learn (getting re-acquainted with a cash register), it isn't difficult; I think to some extent they assign tasks according to your ability and experience. And I believe it is important to keep learning new things in retirement years. That's what keeps us young. The Museum is an important part of the Cable community and it is rewarding to be involved with it. 🦋

For every human being on the planet, there are at least 200 million insects. One out of every four insects is a beetle.



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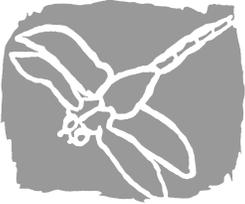
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- Free admission to our collections and exhibits
- Reduced rates for participation in our nature and education programs
- Receive the *Museum Messenger* twice a year
- 10% discounts in the Museum Shop
- Opportunities for Museum Naturalist-led programs 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

Membership Form

Name _____

Name on Second Card _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Is this a new address? Yes No

Home Phone _____

Business Phone _____

Email address to receive updates and newsletters _____

I prefer to remain anonymous

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

This is a: New Renewal Gift Membership

Trillium: \$30 to \$99 **Wood Duck:** \$1000 to \$2499

Whitetail Deer: \$100 to \$249 **Loon:** \$2500 to \$4999

Monarch Butterfly: \$250 to \$499 **Dragonfly:** \$5000 and above

Painted Turtle: \$500 to \$999

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

I would like to give an additional gift of \$ _____ to the CNHM

Total enclosed \$ _____ Check # _____ Master Card Visa

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____ Security Code _____

Signature _____