

Frontier Builders Marks 40 Years

Before the Land O' Lakes fireworks lit up the sky on July 3rd, another celebration was underway as Frontier Builders Inc. marked 40 years in business. Owners Dan and Mary Wait welcomed a large crowd of family, friends, customers, and community members to commemorate the company's four decades of growth and success. Reflecting on the journey since incorporating in 1986, Dan Wait spoke about how the business has evolved while remaining committed to the craftsmanship that built its reputation. Today, advanced robotic technology works alongside the skilled handcrafting that has long been a hallmark of Frontier Builders.

Guests enjoyed live music, a generous selection of food, and refreshments while celebrating the milestone. As many wondered what the next 40 years will bring, one thing is already certain: this fall, Frontier Builders plans to expand its operations with the addition of a new kiln dryer.



Photo by Bob Hughes

Mary and Dan Wait celebrate 40 years of Frontier Builders.

Kids Enjoyed *Birds of Prey*

The Land O' Lakes Library's popular *Birds of Prey* program once again attracted a full house, with 63 children and their parents or guardians attending the recent presentation. After an introduction by library representative Karen Weber Mendham, Bart Kotarba, educator with the Northwoods Wildlife Center, shared fascinating facts about the birds of prey that call the Northwoods home. Kotarba kept the audience engaged by encouraging questions, with many of the younger attendees eager to provide the answers.

The highlight of the program came when Kotarba introduced a live red-tailed hawk, giving everyone an up-close look at one of the region's most impressive raptors. The educational program proved to be another memorable wildlife experience for families in the community.



Photo by Bob Hughes

Bart Kotarba holds a red-tailed hawk for kids.

Meat Raffle Fundraiser to Benefit Sno-Buddies

A *Meat Raffle* supporting area snowmobile trail maintenance is planned for Saturday, August 8th at Twin Lake Pub in Conover. The event will feature several rounds of raffles including steaks, chops, bacon, brats, and more.

Bring your cooler and stay for one round or all. Ticket buyers will also be eligible for door prizes.

Club members will be selling their annual raffle tickets and will have membership forms on site. In addition, a limited assortment

of club gear and clothing will be available. The event will be held from 4:00pm-7:00pm. Twin Lake Pub is at 3894 Twin Lake Road in Conover. For more info, please call 270-792-8625. Profits will benefit Conover Sno-Buddies trail system.

Free Concert in Conover

The Conover Evangelical Free Church will host a free community concert featuring Whispering Donkey, a popular Northwoods band, on Friday, August 8th, at 4:00pm at Conover Town Park. Known for its mix of classic rock favorites and original songs, Whispering Donkey promises an afternoon of great music and family-friendly entertainment. The public is invited to attend. Bring your family, invite your friends, and enjoy an afternoon of live music in the park.

Tee Off for Phelps Fire Department

The 16th annual *Founding Fathers Golf Outing* will be held Saturday, August 9th, at Big Sand Lake Club Golf Course in Phelps. The event begins with an 11:00am shotgun start and benefits the Phelps Fire Department firefighters and EMTs.

Coordinator Tom O'Connell said the fundraiser has generated more than \$70,000 over the years to support the department. "This friendly competition brings together people from across the community, and it's always a boatload of fun," he said.

Registration is \$25 plus green fees, and additional donations are always appreciated. Participants will compete for prizes and trophies before enjoying a cookout prepared by Executive Chef Stefano behind the chalets. To register, call 715-545-2484.

3 Bear Races Drew a Crowd

Luoto's Fitness in Land O' Lakes hosted its annual *3 Bear Races* on July 4th, kicking off the holiday with fun, fitness, and community spirit.

The morning began with the

Youth Fun Run for children ages 14 and under. Registration fees from the event support maintenance of the Land O' Lakes Kids Community Playground. Iris Sanny was the first to cross the finish

line, followed by Magda Hayues and William Pokorny. All three received medals for their efforts.

The festivities continued with the *5K Race*, which raises funds for the Great Headwaters Bike

Trails in Vilas County. The event welcomed runners, walkers, bicyclists, and even dog participants. Before the race began, a trumpeter sounded the traditional calls, and Alyssa Imse

delivered a beautiful rendition of *America the Beautiful* followed by the *National Anthem*, setting the stage for a spirited start as participants of all ages headed down the course.



Photo by Bob Hughes

HEALTH & WELLNESS • Chiropractic Techniques

by Dr. Doug Tansor



Dr. Doug specializes in full family and pet chiropractic services at Up North Wellness Center in Land O' Lakes.

Doctors of chiropractic have extensive training in anatomy and physiology as well as diagnosing musculoskeletal and nervous system disorders. I was surprised to learn that there are currently over 130 different chiropractic techniques used worldwide. Most doctors of chiropractic master 8-10 approaches to treat a variety of patients. The majority of these techniques are manual (hands on), along with a variety of instrument assisted techniques and some table-assisted techniques. Personally, my favorite techniques are diversified adjustments, anterior adjustments, Arthrostim adjustments, Thompson Drop-table technique, and flexion distraction therapy.

Diversified and anterior adjustments are a classic hands on technique that I'd say 95% of chiropractors utilize in practice. It involves a high velocity - low amplitude thrust and commonly accompanies a cavitation or "pop". A "sound" doesn't always occur, nor does it signify a successful adjustment albeit many people think that. The cavitation or "pop" is simply gas being released from the facet joints similar to when people pull on their knuckle joints or crunch them to make a sound. Cavitation commonly occurs in the 24 moveable vertebrae of the spine

during manual adjustments.

My favorite technique for anterior head syndrome (forward head posture) utilizes an Arthrostim. An Arthrostim adjustment is considered a high speed low amplitude adjustment with an instrument for contact instead of the hands. The instrument impulses at 10-12 impulses per second. It has specific attachments to precisely contact the vertebrae to move it multiple times (as opposed to a traditional adjustment with one moment of contact). Arthrostim adjusting is great for the patient who "tenses up" in anticipation of the adjustment. It's also very gentle which is helpful for patients with varying degrees of arthritis. This technique has also been studied along with Digital Motion X-Ray. A motion x-ray shows the vertebrae spinous processes being "stuck" before the adjustment, the actual chiropractic adjustment using an Arthrostim, and then the spinous processes moving freely after the adjustment. This is all done in real time. It's actually quite interesting to watch the studies being performed. To clarify, we do not offer Digital Motion X-Rays at our office. These are very specialized studies.

For leveling the hips/pelvis I prefer using a Thomson drop table. This is another gentle technique that works through different forms of physics including gravity and inertia. The table pops up creating a gap between the patient and table. Using a precise contact, the table drops quickly using gravity. The sudden drop of the table followed by a stop when it flattens utilizes inertia (an

object in motion stays in motion until acted upon by another opposing force- the table suddenly stopping). While this technique is "loud" it's one of the gentlest ways to balance the pelvis.

The last technique I'll mention today is Flexion distraction therapy. I'm excited to share that I have a new table coming in early August to help combat cervical and lumbar compression and disc issues. Flexion distraction therapy is great for sciatica and stenosis patients. Oftentimes traditional chiropractic adjustments don't provide the spinal decompression that some conditions need. This doctor assisted technique has helped in the reduction of peripheral nerve pain and aids in the regression of bulging discs. Did you know that it's estimated that 70% of our population suffers from an asymptomatic disc bulge? This means that even though we may not currently have pain, our discs may be at a greater risk of damage while doing everyday tasks such as vacuuming, folding laundry, pulling weeds, or carrying groceries in from the car.

While these are a few of my favorite techniques, I graduated from Palmer College so I'm well trained in the core Palmer Package. I'm also trained in soft tissue techniques like activated trigger points and instrument assisted soft tissue mobilization (IASTM), but that's a whole separate topic we can learn about a different day. Each patient has their own individual stressors and needs so utilizing a variety of techniques means that patients can receive the care they're looking for.

NSTLRA Poker Run Sets Record

The North and South Twin Lakes Riparian Association (NSTLRA) *Poker Run*, coordinated by Sue Vasko and Elisabeth Sutton, set a new participation record this year with 318 players, 52 boats, and 7 pier dealers, each offering refreshments and treats along the route. Winners were announced at Dublin's Sports Bar. Adam Kveton took first place, followed by Chris Kappelman in second, and Drew Johnson in third. Joyann Kirschbaum received the award for the worst hand. Proceeds from the Poker Run support NSTLRA's Community Support Initiative, which provides financial assistance to nonprofit organizations that enhance the quality of life for residents of the Twin Lakes area while fostering a strong sense of community and environmental stewardship for North and South Twin Lakes.



Photo by Sharon Gifford

Boaters collecting cards from docks during the NSTLRA Poker Run.



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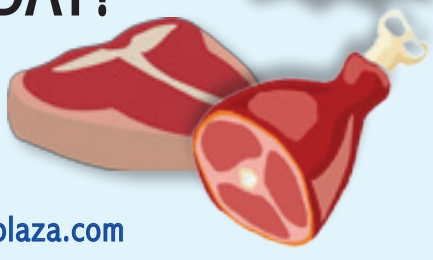
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BORDER HAPPENINGS

ANNOUNCEMENTS • • •

★ Featured in this issue.

Northwoods Art Tour-Summer:
Jul 24-26, 10am-5pm.

Vilas County Fair: Aug 13-16.

Free MI ORV Weekend: Aug 15-16.

CONOVER • • •

Ride With Leinie: Town Park,
Jul 25, 7am-3pm.

Conover EMS's Summer Throw-back Party: Aug 1. ★

Concert: Park, Aug 8, 4pm. ★

Sno-Buddies Meat Raffle: Twin
Lakes Pub, Aug 8, 4-7pm. ★

Chain Skimmer Water Ski Show:
Lake Pleasant, Tu/Th/Sa 7pm.
-**Phelps North Twin Show:** Jul 24,
5pm.
-**Jr. Club Show:** Aug 2, 12pm.
-**Ski Show:** Bents Camp, Aug 9,
6pm.
-**Golf Fundraiser:** Aug 16, 9am.

Town Board Meetings:
Conover Center, 2nd Thurs, 6pm.

Conover Lions Club: info@conover-
lions.com or www.conoverlions.com.

Conover Clerk's Office Hours:
Mon-Thurs 9am-2pm. Events at
www.townofconover.com/calendar.

Conover Post Office Window:
Mon-Fri 8:45am-12:45pm & 2-4pm;
Sat 9-11am.

Conover Chamber: M/Tu/W 9am-
3pm. Th/Fr by appointment.

Conover Transfer Station Hours:
Wed 1-5pm; Fri & Sun 8am-1pm.

LAND O' LAKES • • •

Northwoodstock: Bent's Camp,
Jul 24-25.

Friends of Library Book Sale:
Library, Jul 25, 9am-12pm.

City Wide Rummage Sales: Aug 1,
8am-4pm. ★

**Frosty Club's Brat & Burger Cook-
out:** LOL Rec, Aug 1, 9am-2pm.

**Fish & Game Club Program-
Weather Forecasting:** Lowenwood,
Aug 4, 6:30pm. ★

VFW Walleye Fish Fry: Post 8400,
Aug 14, 4-7pm.

Bents Camp Music Series:
Fri-Sat 6-8pm; Sun 3-5pm.
-**Pacific Coast Highway:** Jul 30.
-**Bret & Frisk:** Jul 31.
-**Scott Kirby:** Aug 1.
-**Bob Palmer:** Aug 2.
-**Dana Nicholson:** Aug 6.
-**Bret & Frisk:** Aug 7.
-**Mark Craft Trio:** Aug 8.
-**Santy & Sons:** Aug 9.

LIBRARY:
The Common Loon: Aug 5, 1-2pm.
Brain Health: Aug 17, 1-2pm.
Antique Appraisal: Aug 22,
11am-2pm.

Kids Movie: Mon, 1pm.
-**Pixar's Hoppers:** Jul 30.
-**Zootopia 2:** Aug 6.
Book Club-The Genius of Birds:
Aug 10, 10:30am.
Adult Movie: 1pm.
-**You, Me & Tuscany:** Aug 13.
Storytime: 1st & 3rd Tues 10:30am.
Mah jongg: Tues 1-4pm. Text
Deanie 715-367-1983 for info.
Board Meetings: 2nd Wed, 9am.
Friends Library Mtg: 1st Thurs,
10am. May-Nov & Jan.
Open: M/Tu/Th/F, 9am-4pm;
Wed 9am-6pm; Sat 9am-1pm.
For more info call 715-547-6006.

LOLA PROGRAMS:

Summer Fundraiser: Jul 29, 5-9pm.
Create Paper: Aug 1, 10am-3pm.
Watercolor Birds: Aug 3 & 4,
10am-4pm.
Zentangle: Aug 7, 10am-12pm.
Coffee & Canvas: Aug 8,
10am-1pm.
Printmaking: Aug 10, 10am-4pm.
Acrylic Turtle or Lakehouse Sign:
Aug 14, 10am-2pm.
Kitchen Broom: Aug 15, 10am-3pm.
Rug Hookers: Mon 9am.
Watercolor Wed: Wed 10am-2pm.
Fiber Friday: Fri 10am-2pm.
Beading Friday: Fri 1-3pm.
**Classes at LOLA unless noted.
Visit website or call 715-547-3950.

Free LOLA Live Concerts: The
Snowflake, Thur 6-8pm. Food trucks
available. Bring your own chairs.
-**Finding Feathers:** Jul 30.
-**Mark Croft Trio:** Aug 6.
-**Make Believe Spurs:** Aug 13.

A.A. Meeting: Town Hall, Sun 2pm.

VFW Stateline Post 8400 Meetings:
Veterans Center, last Mon, 6pm.

StateLine Auxiliary VFW 8400 Mtg:
Veterans Center, 2nd Tu, 5pm.

Tennis Jesters: Tennis Courts, M/W/F
9-11am. New Players Welcome.

Headwaters Food Pantry Pick-up:
Olympic 76 St, 1st & 3rd Wed,
8:30-11:30am. 715-547-6060.

Planning & Beautification Meeting:
Town Hall, 2nd Wed, 11am.

Town Board Meetings:
Town Hall, 3rd Wed, 6pm.

Northern Waters Museum: ★
Open Th/F/Sa 11am-3pm.

American Legion Post 464 Meets:
Town Hall, 2nd Thurs, 6pm.

American Legion Auxiliary Mtg:
Town Hall, 3rd Thurs, 4:30pm.

LOL Chamber Meeting:
3rd Thurs, 7:30am. Public welcome.

Farmers Market: Dawson's Pier,
every Thur 8am-1pm.

Qigong: Town Hall, Fri 9-10am.

LOL Town Hall Hours:
Mon-Thurs 9am-3pm.

LOL Chamber Office Hours:
Mon-Fri 9am-2pm.

Post Office Window: M-F 9:30am-
1pm & 2-4pm; Sat 9:30-11am.

Dump Hours: Sun 9am-12pm; Tu
8am-3pm; Th 12-6pm; Sat 8am-4pm.

PHELPS • • •

Phelps Men's Softball Tournament:
Wavering Park, Jul 24-26.

Founding Fathers Golf Outing:
Big Sand Lake Golf Course, Aug 9,
11am-5pm. ★

Pet Blessing: Pioneer Lake Church,
Aug 23, 3pm.

Music On The Lake: Downtown,
6-9pm. Bring your own chairs.
-**Summer Party:** Jul 24, Chain
Skimmers Water-Ski Show-5pm.
The Now-6:30pm.
-**Bret & Frisk:** Aug 5, 5:30-8:30pm.

LIBRARY:

Storytime: Tues 2pm.
Hours: M/Tu/Th/F 10am-4pm;
Wed 2-6pm; Sat 10am-1pm.
For more info call 715-545-2887.

Phelps Women's Club Meeting:
Congregational Church, Mon 1pm.
Call 715-617-0308 for date.

Phelps Historical Museum: Hours:
Tu/F/Sa 10am-2pm; Th 4-8pm.

Phelps Chamber Meeting:
Accelerator Bldg, 3rd Tues, 5pm.

Phelps Town Board Meeting:
Town Hall, 2nd Wed, 6pm.

Phelps/LOL Lions Club: 3rd Thur
6pm. Rollie Alger at 715-545-2711
or Brian Blank at 262-302-0458.

Phelps Chamber Office Hours:
M/W/F 9am-3pm; Sat 8am-12pm.

Phelps Post Office Window:
Mon-Fri 8am-12:15pm & 2:15-4pm;
Sat 9-11am.

Phelps Town Hall Hours:
Mon-Thurs 9am-12pm and 1-3pm.

Phelps Transfer Station Hours:
Tu 12-3pm; Sat 9am-2pm.

WATERSMEET • • •

ONF Programs: Ottawa Visitors
Center, Thur 7pm.
-**Northwoods Alliance:** Jul 30.
-**Things We See in the Woods:**
Aug 6.
-**J.W. Toumey Nursery:** Aug 13.

Summer Market: LVD Plaza, Sun
10am-2pm.

Ottawa Visitors Ctr: M-F 8am-4pm.

A.A. Meeting: Spiritual Center;
Tues/Thur/Sat 7pm. (All Open Topic)
Call 906-366-0067 for more info.

ISCCW Meeting: Town Hall,
2nd Tues, 9am.

Town Board Meeting: Town Hall,
3rd Wed 4:30pm.

Planning Commission Meeting:
Town Hall, 1st Thur, 5:30pm.

American Legion Post 417: Com-
munity Center, last Thur, 5pm.

Watersmeet Town Hall Hours:
Mon-Fri 9am-11:30am, 12-3pm.
Visit www.watersmeet.us.

Transfer Station Hours: M/T/Th/F/Sat
8am-4pm; Sun 8am-12pm.

Watersmeet Post Office Window:
Mon-Fri 9:30am-12:30pm &
1:30-4pm; Sat 9:15-10:45am.

BEYOND THE BORDER • • • BOULDER JUNCTION•

Learn to Fish Musky: Community
Center, Aug 7, 8:30am-5pm.

Musky Street Party: Aug 7, 6-10pm.

Musky Fun Run: Aug 8, 7:30am.

Musky Jamboree: Aug 9, 9am-3pm.

Guide On The Side Fishing Seminars,
Northern Highland Sports (if rain-
Acorn Lodge), Wed 4-5pm. Free.
-**Late Summer Lake Trout:** Jul 29.
-**Late Summer Musky:** Aug 5.
-**Family Fishing:** Aug 12.
-**Musky Fishing:** Aug 19.

Music on Main Street: Wed 6-8pm.
-**Bret & Frisk:** Jul 29.
-**Ember:** Aug 5.
-**Emilie Ganiere:** Aug 12.
-**Mark Wayne:** Aug. 19.

Flea Market: Community Center,
Tues 8am-2pm.

EAGLE RIVER •

Forest Fest: Trees For Tomorrow,
Jul 25.

National Musky Open: Fairgrounds,
Aug 20-23.

Stockcar Races: ER Speedway,
Fri 7pm.

Bingo: Kalmar Ctr, Mon 6 & 7pm.

Pickleball: Riverview Park, Tu/Th/Sat
9am-12pm.

Farmers Market: Hwy 45, Wed
8:30am-1pm; Sun 8:30am-1pm.

OLSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY:
Book Club-Nature of Fragile
Things: Jul 27, 5:30pm.
Writers Group: Mon 1-3pm.
Memory Cafe: 2nd Mon, 10am.
Ukulele Jam: Mon 2-3:30pm.
Genealogical Society Meeting:
1st Mon 4:30-6:30pm.
Storytime: Tues 10am.
Grief Support: 1st Thurs 1pm.
Free Mending: 1st Sat 10am-12pm.

HAPPENINGS
>> continued on page 4

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Next issue: August 7, 2026
Submissions by: July 25, 2026

HAPPENINGS

continued from page 3 >>

Hours: M 9am-7pm; T-Th 9am-6pm; F 9am-5pm; Sa 9am-3pm.
For more info 715-479-8070.

MANITOWISH WATERS •

Pontoon Poker Run: Aug 1.

Free Music in the Park: Koller Park, Sun 4-6pm, unless noted.

-Southbound: Jul 26.

-Whitehouse Players: Aug 1.

-Copper Box: Aug 2.

-Tom Katalin & Hwy 41: Aug 9.

Bingo: Community Center, Mon 7pm. Until Aug 10.

Skeeters Water Ski Show: Rest Lake, Wed & Sat, 7pm.

Flea & Farmers Market: Community Center, Thurs 9am-2pm.

MERCER •

Loon Days Fest: Aug 5, 9am-4pm.

Car Show: Around the Corner Pub, Aug 22.

MINOCQUA •

After Loon Delight Craft Show: Torpy Park, Aug 6, 9am-4pm.

Dragon Boat Festival: Torpy Park, Aug 15, 9am-3pm.

Farmers Market: Visitors Bureau: Fri 8am-1pm.

Min-Aqua Bats Ski Show: Aqua Bowl, Sun, Wed, & Fri, 7-9pm.

PRESQUE ISLE •

Loggers Breakfast: Community Center, Jul 26, 8-11am.

Tunes on the Water: Pipke Park, 5-7pm.

-Whitehouse Players: Jul 10.

-Tom Katalin: Jul 17.

-Flashback: Jul 24.

-Eric Mahler: Jul 31.

-Flashback: Aug 7.

-Sofa & the Traveling Wheel Bearings: Aug 14.

Bingo: Winegar American Legion Post 480, Sun 6pm.

LIBRARY PROGRAMS:

Fiber Arts: 1st & 3rd Tu 12-3pm.

Story Club: 1st & 3rd Wed, 10am.

American MahJongg: Fri 1-3pm.

Hours: M/W 9-6; T/Th/S 9-12; F 9-3.

Call for more info 715-686-7613.

RHINELANDER •

Oneida County Fair: Pioneer Park, Jul 30-Aug 2.

Saluting Heroes Balloon Rally:

Country Fest Grounds, Jul 31-Aug 1.

Art On Main: Aug 8, 10am-3pm.

Redikulus Dae Sales: Downtown, Aug 12, 8am-4pm.

Farmers Market: Pioneer Park, Sat 8am-1pm.

SAYNER/STAR LAKE •

Maker's Market: Main St, Wed, 9am-2pm. Thru Aug.2.

Street Fair: Town Park, Aug 2, 10am-4pm.

ST. GERMAIN •

St. Germain Music-Concert Crawl: Wed 6:30-8pm.

-Brian McLaughlin: Whitetail Inn, Aug 5.

Brian McLaughlin: Whitetail Inn, Aug 5.

Flea Market: Park, Mon 8am-3pm.

Bingo: Comm. Center, Mon 7pm.

THREE LAKES •

Fireman's Picnic: Park, Aug 1, 4-9pm.

UPPER MICHIGAN •

Gogebic County Fair: Ironwood, Aug 6-9.

Rockland-Old Victoria Art Show: Aug 16, 10am-4pm.

Porcupine Mountains Music Fest: Aug 28-29. www.porkiesfestival.org.

MI-TRALE Meeting: Stannard Town Hall-Bruce Crossing, 1st Mon 7pm.

From the PASTOR'S WINDOW •

by Pastor Rob Yerks



Rob Yerks serves as the pastor of Watersmeet Bible Church. He is a graduate of Contenders Discipleship Initiative (CDI).

Worn out Tent

"For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling. (2 Corinthians 5:1-2)

One of the favorite summer pastimes for many of us here in the Northwoods is camping. Camping can be a lot of fun when everything goes well. But, what about when it doesn't? What if the weather was foul, or the bugs were a terror, or a raccoon stole your child's shoe. Not so fun, right? However, all these things can still be fun stories later so long as you have a tent to safely retreat to at the end of the day. But, what about when that tent doesn't work like it should? If your tent can't keep out the wind and the rain, or worst of all, the bugs, then you can quickly get to the point where the fun stops and you just want to go home. Well, that's the analogy that

the Apostle Paul uses here.

Paul is comparing our earthly bodies to tents. Now, just like when camping in a tent, when our bodies work well we can roll with the punches that life's adventures bring us. Also, just like with a tent, our bodies can get to the point where the adventure gets to be just plain miserable and we don't want to do it anymore. In that case, we all eventually get to the point that we just want to go home. Thankfully, for those who are saved in Christ, we are blessed to know that we have a home to go to.

Jesus says, *"In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."* (John 14:2-3) For those who have trusted in Christ for salvation, we are told that at the end of our wilderness wanderings that Christ will take us to our heavenly home where He has prepared a room for us. In our heavenly home, we will never experience any of the maladies of sin that make life so difficult. And greatest of all, there

in our eternal heavenly home we will be united with Christ our Savior for all of eternity.

So, friends, be encouraged. There may be days that you feel the weight of your birthday candles upon you. You may groan and long for something far better. Know that in Christ, you do have something far better waiting for you. When you are done here in the wilderness on earth you will be able to truly and eternally go to your heavenly home.

See You Sunday ~ Pastor Rob.

Pastoryerks@gmail.com, 906-358-4744.

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Phelps Congregational United Church of Christ
Sunday Service at 9:00am
2303 Hwy 17
(715) 545-3736

Watersmeet Bible Church
Sunday Worship at 10:30am
Hwy 2 & Basphy Road
Watersmeet, MI
(906) 358-4744

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Lions Club Presented Scholarship

THE TIPSY HOUSEWIFE • Italian Salisbury Steak

The Phelps-Land O' Lakes Lions Club recently presented a 2026 scholarship to Phelps High School graduate Alivia Jones.

Jones will attend the University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh this fall, where she will continue her education. The Lions Club congratulates Alivia on her accomplishments and wishes her success in her college career.



Back Row (L-R): Brian Schoeder, Steve Chandler, Rollie Alger, and Bill Reckling. Front: Scott McPherson, Alivia Jones, and Brian Blank.

by Chef April Lee



April Lee is a Chef, Social Media Influencer, & Food Blogger from Chicago and part time in Watersmeet.

One thing I love about summer in the Northwoods is that the days naturally fill themselves. Whether you're out on the lake, taking an evening boat ride, fishing, hiking, entertaining weekend guests, or simply enjoying a quiet evening on the porch, dinner often becomes an afterthought. That's why my slow cooker earns a permanent spot on the counter this time of year.

While many people think of slow cookers as a cold-weather appliance, I use mine just as often in the summer. It keeps the kitchen cool and lets dinner cook while everyone is off enjoying the day. Coming home to a meal that's ready to serve is one of life's simple pleasures.

This Italian Salisbury Steak is a fresh take on a classic comfort food. Instead of the traditional brown gravy, tender beef patties simmer in a rich tomato sauce seasoned with garlic, Parmesan, and Italian herbs.

When zucchini is plentiful, I grate

one medium zucchini into the meat mixture. It melts right in, adding moisture without changing the flavor. I also swap half the ground beef for mild Italian sausage, which adds extra seasoning and stretches the recipe. With the zucchini mixed in, I made 14 patties instead of the usual 6-8. We enjoy half for dinner and freeze the rest uncooked for an easy homemade meal on another busy summer day.

Ingredients: For Steaks

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 pound mild Italian sausage, casings removed
- 1 whole medium zucchini, grated
- 1 cup Italian seasoned bread-crumbs *more if meat is too wet to form patties
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 eggs
- 1 medium onion, grated
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons chopped parsley
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 tablespoons milk

Instructions:

Mix all ingredients gently until combined and form into approximately 14 oval patties. Let rest for 20-30 minutes on the counter. Brown the patties in a skillet for 2-3 minutes per side. They do not need to cook through. Freeze any uncooked patties you aren't using by placing them on a baking sheet until firm, then transfer them to a freezer-safe bag.

Ingredients: For Sauce

- 1 small onion, sliced
- 1 green bell pepper, sliced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1-28 ounce can crushed tomatoes



- 1-15 ounce can tomato sauce
- 1 cup beef broth
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tablespoon Better Than Bouillon Beef Base
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 1/2 teaspoon dried basil
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes (optional)
- 1 teaspoon sugar (optional)

Instructions:

1. Whisk the sauce ingredients together in the slow cooker.
2. Nestle the browned patties into the sauce and spoon a little over the tops.
3. Cook on low for 6-7 hours or high for 3-4 hours.
4. About 15 minutes before serving, stir in 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese and 2 tablespoons butter.
5. If you'd like a thicker sauce, stir together 1 tablespoon cornstarch and 2 tablespoons cold water. Add to the slow cooker and cook for another 15-20 minutes.
6. Serve over mashed potatoes, buttered noodles, or creamy Parmesan polenta with plenty of fresh parsley, extra Parmesan, and a loaf of crusty Italian bread for soaking up every last bit of the sauce.

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Totally Pawsome Hosts Wine Mixer

Totally Pawsome is inviting the community to raise a glass for a great cause at its first-ever Totally Pawsome Wine Mixer on Sunday, September 20th, at The Red Canoe in St. Germain. The afternoon will feature wine tasting, delicious hors d'oeuvres, live music, raffles, and a cash full bar that also offers fun mocktails. A great opportunity to connect with fellow animal lovers—all while helping provide pet food assistance to local families in need.

Early Bird tickets are available for \$55 through August 10th. Beginning August 11th, tickets are \$65, and \$75 at the door, if available. Tickets can be purchased at The Red Canoe in St. Germain, Eagle River Pet Company in Eagle River, and The Mad Baer in Land O' Lakes. For more information about the Wine Mixer, to donate towards our basket and paddle raffle, or to make a donation, visit <https://totallypawsome.org>, follow Totally Pawsome on Facebook, or leave us a message at 715-539-6815.

Church Celebrated Independence Day

Conover Evangelical Free Church joined the community in celebrating America's 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence by participating in Conover's Fourth of July Parade. Church members decorated a parade float, filled a trailer with children and candy, and traveled the parade route through Conover to the Town Park, sharing smiles and treats with spectators along the way. The festive day created



Photo by Shirley Kufeldt

lasting memories while celebrating 250 years of the freedoms Americans have enjoyed, including the freedom to worship.

KEEPING YOU POSTED •

by Karol Wilson

On May 25th, in Boston, MA, the United States Postal Service issued the American Bison Forever stamp in one design, in a pane of 16 stamps. This stamp celebrates our national mammal, the American bison, commonly known as the buffalo. Overlaying a contemporary photograph of the animal is artwork recalling a buffalo stamp issued in 1923. The photograph, taken by Tom Murphy, shows a wild buffalo in profile, seen grazing within Yellowstone National Park. The issuance title, *AMERICAN BISON*, appears on the selvage and under it, *BOSTON 2026 WORLD STAMP SHOW*, where the stamp was issued in May 2026. Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamp.



Girlfriends Day Aug 1st!

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NATURAL CONNECTIONS • The Ecology of Leaf Architects

by Emily Stone



Naturalist & Education Director Emily Stone holds Natural History & Geology Degrees from Northland College. Works & writes in Northern WI.

From a distance, the forests of July look like a lush tapestry of green. But when you step into the loosely woven strands and take a closer look, the leaves are etched with



Sac Spider: Riparian sac spiders fold a cattail leaf into a little origami home in which to guard their eggs.

feeding trails, dissected by holes of all shapes and sizes, and covered with the debris of life. It's a principle of ecology, of course, that every being is food for someone else.

Cattails, for example, are food for me! Before their flower spikes explode with pollen and become those brown sausage-shaped seed heads, the dense cylinders of their male flowers are a tasty green vegetable. Simply husk them like sweet corn, boil for 10 minutes, and eat with butter and salt. Just like a cornucopia, there's a central stem you must nibble around. In Northern Wisconsin, this part of the plant becomes edible in late June.

A few weeks ago while I was tromping through a cattail stand to harvest dinner, I noticed that some of the cattail leaves were folded over at the tip into a triangular origami box. I set down my bag of flower spikes and used both hands to unfold the leaf. White silk in the seams stretched and tore. The inside was lined with sheets of silk as well, and hidden below this gossamer blanket was a cluster of beige eggs. In a flurry of legs, someone small and brown escaped from the back corner of the box and dropped to the ground. Who had I disturbed?

The next origami leaf I opened much more slowly, and was

rewarded with the sight of a pretty little spider covered in silky brown hairs. She stared at me with her ebony face from beyond her pile of eggs.

All spiders can make silk, but riparian sac spiders like this one don't build webs. To hunt, they wander through the night, hoping to stumble on an insect or arthropod the right size for their next meal. When a female is ready to lay eggs, though, she finds the leaf of a monocot—plants like grasses or lilies with parallel venation—and bends it around herself in a clockwise direction. She uses silk to hold everything tight and to line the enclosure, then lays her pile of eggs. The leaf isn't crimped; it remains green and living.

This tidy structure has been described as both a nursery and a coffin. The mother spider will never leave the structure again (except if disturbed by a curious naturalist). Instead, she guards her eggs against the marauding hunger of other female sac spiders. By some accounts, she dies just before the eggs hatch, and they consume her body as their first meal. It is the ultimate maternal gift.

Sac spiders as a group are common around the globe, and this particular species has been found in Russia, Mongolia, China, Japan, across the Northwoods, and in Cable, WI.

In looking up information on the Bug of the Week blog by Kate Redmond, I discovered that sac spiders are classified as "leaf folders," while other leaf architects are "leaf rollers" or "leaf tiers." All of these insects and spiders use silk that contracts as it dries to shape leaves into shelters.

S. W. Frost, in the 1942 book *Insect Life and Insect Natural History*, described that "As the strands dry, they shrink and pull the edges of the leaf inward. New and shorter strands are then spun which in turn shrink and pull the edges of the leaf closer together. This is continued until the edge of the leaf is drawn completely over and is fastened with other strands of silk..."

I set out to find examples of the other two leaf architects. It didn't take long. While walking a section of the Superior Hiking Trail, I spotted large-leaved aster leaves with one edge curled inward toward the midrib. Brown trails through the tissue indicated that the homeowner was mining the leaf material from inside their hidey-hole. I opened one to discover a sprinkling of black frass (poop) and no resident. I decided not to disturb anymore. Micro-moths in the family Tortricidae are some of the most common leaf-rolling architects, and are my top suspects. This group includes spruce budworm, a pest who had sewed fir needles together nearby.

In a rocky section of trail, a patch of pearly everlasting leaves caught my eye. On several plants a few of



Photos by Emily Stone

A leaf rolling insect has used silk that shrinks as it dries to construct a shelter in this large-leaved aster leaf.

the topmost leaves had been sewn together into a messy vase. Without even opening the structure, I knew that this was the work of a spikey black caterpillar who would metamorphose into an American painted lady butterfly. They scrape pale fuzz off the leaves' surfaces to line their nest, and also munch on the inner walls of their home.

Everywhere I looked, the signs of leaf-eaters abounded. And then, in a flash of feathers, a bird dove into a bush. Behind the screen of twigs, a male chestnut-sided warbler hopped nervously with two different colors of caterpillars dangling from his beak. When he sensed my focus had strayed, he dove away to his nest. Those larvae were almost certainly leaf-eaters, and they were about to become birds! The abundance of summer is a great time to witness ecology in action.

You can discover more about Emily Stone through *Natural Connections* online at cablemuseumnaturalconnections.blogspot.com. Connect on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and cablemuseum.org to keep track of our latest adventures in learning.

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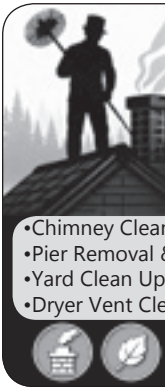
MI-TRALE Receives Trail Grant

The Michigan Trails and Recreation Alliance of Land and the Environment (MI-TRALE) has received a \$7,500 Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative grant to install nine additional trail counters this summer on more than 300 miles of Michigan DNR-designated trails it manages in the western Upper Peninsula.

The new counters will help monitor trail usage and traffic patterns throughout the year, including both ORV and snowmobile activity. The data collected will be used to improve trail maintenance planning and scheduling.

MI-TRALE President Donald Helsel said the organization has used trail counters for about 10 years, but the additional units will provide more complete information about how the trail system is used. He thanked Yamaha's Outdoor Access Initiative for supporting the project.

The TRAFx-brand counters are designed for rugged outdoor environments and are widely used by government agencies and research organizations around the world to monitor recreation and trail use.



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Fish & Game Club Welcomes Meteorologist Geoff Weller

The Land O' Lakes Fish & Game Club *Summer Speaker Series* continues on Thursday, August 4th, at 6:30pm, at the Lowenwood Campus, 5400 N. Black Oak Road, Land O' Lakes.

The featured speaker will be Geoff Weller, Chief Meteorologist and News Director for NBC 12 in Rhinelander, presenting *Predicting the Unpredictable: Weather Forecasting in Wisconsin's Northwoods*. Weller will share his lifelong passion for meteorology, from watching The Weather Channel as a child to studying at the University of Oklahoma, one of the nation's premier meteorology schools. His career has included chasing 44 tornadoes while interning at a television station in Oklahoma City, earning FAA Certified Flight Instructor credentials, teaching aviation meteorology, and eventually returning to his true passion—forecasting the weather. Weller joined NBC 12 more than a decade ago and now serves as both Chief Meteorologist and News Director. During his presentation, Weller will discuss why forecasting weather in northern Wisconsin is especially challenging, how forecasting technology has evolved, and the role climate patterns and local weather systems play in the ever-changing Northwoods forecast. He will also share stories from his career and his commitment to educating young people through more than 400 school presentations.

Whether you're fascinated by weather, curious about forecasting, or simply enjoy learning, this promises to be an informative and entertaining evening. The program is free and open to the public of all ages.

Land O' Lakes Garage Sales Return

Bargain hunters are invited to the Land O' Lakes *Community-Wide Garage Sale* on Saturday, August 1st, from 8:00am-5:00pm. The annual event, which is one-day only this year, will feature dozens of garage sales throughout Land O' Lakes and the surrounding area, offering shoppers a wide variety of treasures and bargains. Garage sale maps will be available online, through social media, and in printed form beginning at 7:00am on the day of the event at Land O' Lakes Elementary School, 6485 Town Hall Road. To accommodate participating sellers, maps will not be released before the morning of the sale. Shoppers are encouraged to plan ahead, grab a map, and spend the day exploring the many sales throughout the community.

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AREA SALES

ESTATE SALE: The Queens of Clutter will be hosting a One-Day estate sale on Saturday, July 25th from 9:00 to 2:00 with the last hour being 1/2 OFF. Located at 5584 Broman Lane, Phelps, WI. Take Hwy. E to Broman Lane. Check out our facebook page for more information and pictures. Announcements on sale day take precedence over printed material. #072426

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