

## Back-to-School Tips for a Smooth Start

The start of a new school year can bring a mix of excitement and stress for both children and parents. After a summer of relaxed schedules, getting back into a routine takes a little preparation. A few simple steps can help make the transition easier for everyone.

- **Ease Back Into a Routine:** Starting now, begin moving bedtime and wake-up times closer to the school schedule. This gives children time to adjust rather than making the first school morning a shock to the system.
- **Get Organized Early:** Go through school supplies, back-

packs, clothing, and shoes before the first day. Having everything ready ahead of time can eliminate last-minute morning scrambling.

- **Create a Morning Routine:** Decide what needs to happen each morning and establish a routine that works for your family. Preparing lunches, backpacks, and clothing the night before can save valuable time.
- **Set Up a Homework Space:** Choose a quiet, comfortable spot where homework and school projects can be completed. Keeping basic supplies nearby can make it easier to stay focused and organized.



Photo by Border Bulletin

## Pet Blessing at Pioneer Lake Church

Pioneer Lake Lutheran Church will hold its annual *Pet Blessing* on Sunday, August 23rd, at 3:00pm. The church is located at 3675 Pioneer Church Road in Conover. The event is free and everyone is welcome. After the blessing service, guests are invited to stay for free hot dogs, chips, and lemonade. A representative from Totally Pawsome, a pet food pantry, will be on site to share information about their mission to support local pet owners in need. Attendees are encouraged to bring a donation to help support Totally Pawsome. Requested items include dry or wet dog and/or cat food, pet treats, and cat litter. There will also be a silent auction featuring items generously donated by area businesses. All pets should be leashed or caged for safety. For more information, contact Joanie at 715-547-6209.



Photo provided by Pioneer Lake Church

- **Talk About the New School Year:** Ask children what they are looking forward to and whether they have any concerns. For younger children, talking about teachers, classmates, and daily routines can help ease first-day nerves.
- **Limit Distractions:** Set reasonable limits on television, video games, and other screen time, especially during home-

work and bedtime. Keeping devices out of the bedroom at night can also help children get the rest they need.

- **Make Time for Breakfast:** A nutritious breakfast provides a good start to the day. If mornings are rushed, plan a few quick breakfast options that can be prepared ahead of time.
- **Keep the First Week Simple:** The first few days can be tir-

ing as everyone adjusts. Try not to overschedule evenings and allow children some downtime after school.

Most importantly, remember that getting back into a routine takes time. With a little preparation, patience, and flexibility, families can start the school year feeling organized, confident, and ready for whatever the new year brings.

## Sno-Buddies Plan Trail Fundraiser

The Conover Sno-Buddies Snowmobile Club has planned a *Brats & Beer* themed fundraiser for Sunday, September 6th. The event will be held outdoors at Singer's Burnt Bridge Tavern and Restaurant from 11:00am-4:00pm. Club volunteers will be grilling fresh brats and serving ice cold beer. Guests may also enjoy pulled pork sandwiches, hot dogs, beans, and coleslaw, along with other beverage options.

For those seeking other options, the Burnt Bridge team will be offering a limited menu and additional beverage choices inside the restaurant. A popular favorite is their signature giant hot pretzel served with three dipping sauces.

Beverages will also be available at their outdoor hilltop bar overlooking a landscape of beautiful flower gardens and forested land.

Attendees may purchase BIG CASH and Groom-to-Ride raffle tickets and BOGO drink punch cards on site as well as participate in games of chance to win raffle baskets, 50/50 drawings, and more. Burnt Bridge is located at 5920 Hwy K West in Conover. Please call 715-479-8530 for more information. The event is open to the public.

The Sno-Buddies club will be celebrating their 55th anniversary in the upcoming season. Commemorative T-shirts highlighting the club's incorpora-

tion in 1972 will be available along with new styles of clothing and hats.

Sno-Buddies' club leaders will be on hand and eager for feedback from members and the public regarding trail improvements and club activities. Conover Sno-Buddies welcomes new members to join the club. For more information, visit their website at [conoversnobuddies.com](http://conoversnobuddies.com).

All proceeds from the event go towards Conover trail maintenance and equipment replacement funds. The club is planning ahead to ensure sufficient funds to cover the higher fuel costs anticipated in the coming winter season.



## Scarecrow Fest Vendors Wanted

There are a limited number of spaces available for craft vendors at the 17th annual Phelps *Scarecrow Fest* on Saturday, September 19th. The event is scheduled from 10:00am-4:00pm in downtown Phelps. Cost is \$40 per entry for a 12' X 12' space. For information email Sharon at [gifford.se3@gmail.com](mailto:gifford.se3@gmail.com). The deadline for registration is September 1st. Fee after the deadline is \$75 per space.

## Nicolet Gives to Sunshine

The employees of Nicolet National Bank recently donated \$1,500 through the Nicolet National Foundation, Inc. to Sunshine For Humanity. This donation is especially meaningful as it came directly from bank employees who personally contributed their own funds. It is inspiring to see the Nicolet National Bank family come together to support the communities where they live, work, and serve.

As the only homeless shelter and sober living house in Vilas County, Sunshine For Humanity provides essential support to individuals working to rebuild their lives. The contribution will help further its mission of serving those in need throughout the community. Visit [SunshineForHumanity.com](http://SunshineForHumanity.com) or call 715-477-2220 to learn more.

Photo submitted by Debra Johnson



(L-R): Sunshine representatives Deborah LaPrade; Amanda Kollman; Nicolet National Bank employees Danielle Mazur and Joey Muehlethaler; Sunshine CEO Deb Johnson; and Mary Orzech.

## Lando Community Wide Garage Sales Was a Hit

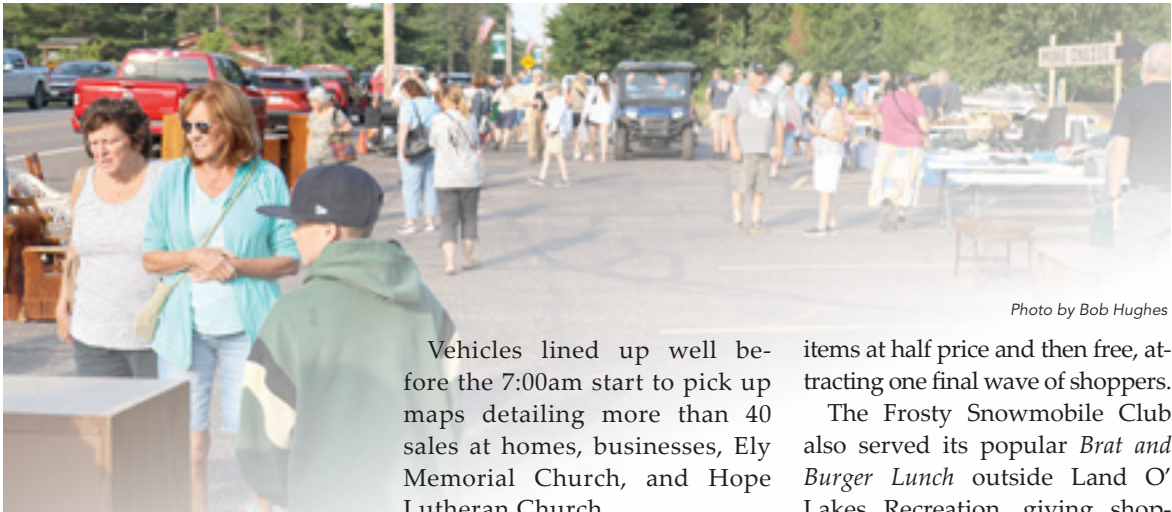


Photo by Bob Hughes

Another successful Land O' Lakes Chamber of Commerce *Community-Wide Garage Sale* took place on Saturday, August 1st, drawing bargain hunters from across the Northwoods on a beautiful summer morning.

Vehicles lined up well before the 7:00am start to pick up maps detailing more than 40 sales at homes, businesses, Ely Memorial Church, and Hope Lutheran Church.

Shoppers spent the day searching for bargains throughout the community, with plenty of smiles as treasures found new homes. As the day wound down, Ely Memorial Church and Hope Lutheran Church offered many remaining

items at half price and then free, attracting one final wave of shoppers.

The Frosty Snowmobile Club also served its popular *Brat and Burger Lunch* outside Land O' Lakes Recreation, giving shoppers a chance to refuel before continuing their hunt for deals.

Once again, the annual event proved to be a popular community tradition, with many already looking forward to next year's *Community-Wide Garage Sale*.

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# BORDER HAPPENINGS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS • • •

★ Featured in this issue.

**World Championship Off-Road Races:** Crandon, Sept 4-5.

**Labor Day:** Sept 7.

**School Info: 2026-2027**  
**NPSD:**

School Begins: Sept 1.  
No School: Sept 7.

**Phelps:**

School Begins: Sept 1.

**Watersmeet:**

School Begins: Aug 25.

No School: Aug 28 & 31, Sept 4 & 7.

## CONOVER • • •

**Sno-Buddies Brats & Beer Trail Fundraiser:** Burnt Bridge, Sept 6, 11am-4pm. ★

**Chain Skimmer Water Ski Show:** Lake Pleasant, Tu/Th/Sa 7pm.  
-**Labor Day Show:** Sept 5, 5pm.

**Town Board Meetings:**

Conover Center, 2nd Thurs, 6pm.

**Conover Lions Club:** info@conoverlions.com or www.conoverlions.com.

**Conover Clerk's Office Hours:**

Mon-Thurs 9am-2pm. Events at [www.townofconover.com/calendar](http://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 • • •

**Art Harvest:** Community Gardens, Aug 29, 10am-2pm.

**Fish & Game Club Program-WI State Record Walleye Search:** Lowenwood, Sept 1, 6:30pm. ★

**Outdoor Movie-Cars:** The Snowflake, Sept 11.

**Airport Radar Run:** Airport, Sept 12, 9am-3pm.

**Stateline Auto Show:** Town Hall, Sept 12, 9am-3pm.

**Oktoberfest:** Snowflake, Sept 12, 4-10pm.

**Bents Camp Music Series:**

Fri-Sat 6-8pm; Sun 3-5pm.

-**Bret & Frisk:** Aug 21.

-**Karly Davidson:** Aug 22.

-**Burton Tyler:** Aug 23.

-**Bret & Frisk:** Aug 28.

-**Dana Nicholson:** Aug 29.

-**Bob Palmer:** Aug 30.

-**Bret & Frisk:** Sept 4.

-**Old Pine Road:** Sept 5.

-**Howard Luedtke & the Blue Max Band:** Sept 6.

-**Bob Palmer:** Sept 7.

**LIBRARY:**

**Antique Appraisal:** Aug 22, 11am-2pm.

**What's It Worth?:** Aug 22, 11am-1pm.

**Winged Wonders:** Sept 30, 1-2pm.

**Book Clubs:**

-**The Brothers Karamazov:** Sept 8, 10am.

-**The Extraordinary Lives of Mary Wollstonecraft & Her Daughter:** Sept 14, 10:30am.

**Adult Movie:** 1 & 6:30pm.

-**The Devil Wears Prada 2:** Sept 17.

**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:**

**Vision Board:** Aug 22, 10am-12pm.

**Coil Basket:** Aug 27, 10am-3pm.

**Smudge Wand:** Aug 28, 10am-3pm.

**Sunflower on Suede Matboard:**

Sept 3, 10am-4pm.

**Fused Glass:** Sept 3, 1-3pm.

**Songwriting:** Sept 5, 10am-2pm.

**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.

**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 • • •

**End of the Summer Party:** Hillside Resort, Aug 22, 5-8pm. ★

**Dan & Connie's Fishing Classic:** Sand Lake Pub, Aug 22, 7am-4pm.

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

**Blood Drive:** St. Mary's Church, Aug 27, 11:30am-4pm. ★

**Musky Tournament:** Phelps Hillside, Sept 2, 7am-3pm.

**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.

-**North Country Trail:** Aug 27.

-**Discovering:** Sept 3.

**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:** Community Center, last Thur, 5pm.

**Watersmeet Town Hall Hours:** Mon-Fri 9am-11:30am, 12-3pm. Visit [www.watersmeet.us](http://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 •

**Flea Market:** Community Center, Tues 8am-2pm. Thru Aug 25.

## EAGLE RIVER •

**HCPA Show-Tennessee Whiskey Revival:** NPHS, Aug 29, 7pm.

**Classic Car & Truck Show:** Downtown, Aug 29, 9am-3pm.

**Sausage Fest:** Riverview Park, Sept 6, 11am-4pm.

**Labor Day Arts & Craft Show:** Downtown, Sept 6, 10am-4pm.

**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:**

**Special Needs Bingo:** Aug 28, 1:30pm.

**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.

**Hours:** M 9am-7pm; T-Th 9am-6pm; F 9am-5pm; Sa 9am-3pm.

For more info 715-479-8070.

## MANITOWISH WATERS •

**Duck Race & Summer Fest:**

Koller Park, Sept 6, 1:30-6pm.

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

-**Still Reckless:** Aug 23.

-**Old Pine Road:** Aug 30.

-**Allen Brothers:** Sept 6.

**Flea & Farmers Market:** Community Center, Thurs 9am-2pm. Til Aug 28.

## MERCER •

**Car Show:** Around the Corner Pub, Aug 22.

## MINOCQUA •

**No Frills Marathon:** Bearskin Trail, Sept 6, 8am.

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

## PRESQUE ISLE •

**Blood Drive:** Community Center, Sept 5, 1-5:30pm.

**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 •

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

## ST. GERMAIN •

**Bo-Boen Golf Outing:** St. Germain Golf Course, Aug 23.

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

**Bingo:** Comm. Center, Mon 7pm.

## UPPER MICHIGAN •

**Porcupine Mountains Music Fest:** Aug 28-29. [www.porkiesfestival.org](http://www.porkiesfestival.org).

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



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Next issue: September 4, 2026

Submissions by: August 22, 2026



Stay Alert  
Slow Down  
Watch out  
for buses  
and kids!



## THE TIPSY HOUSEWIFE • Breakfast Muffins

by Chef April Lee



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

There is something about breakfast in the Northwoods that makes me want a breakfast that actually sticks with you. Maybe it's because even in the middle of summer we can wake up to one of those chilly mornings where you need a sweat-shirt with your coffee. Whatever the reason, these Cheesy Sausage and Bacon English Muffins are exactly the kind of breakfast I want on a cool morning.

The filling reminds me of those old-fashioned Hanky Panky appetizers made with sausage and cheese on little slices of party rye. I also make cheesy sausage wonton cups with a similar filling. This time, I decided to turn the idea into breakfast.

I specifically use sourdough English muffins. Besides having a little more flavor, they have all those wonderful nooks and crannies for the sausage and melted cheese to settle into as they bake.

These are also perfect for feeding overnight guests. Make the sausage and cheese mixture ahead, refrigerate it, then add the eggs and assemble the English muffins when everyone wakes up. You can even freeze the fill-

ing without the eggs and thaw it overnight when you need it.

And if you really want to make a meal out of one, put a fried egg on top. That's my kind of breakfast.

### Ingredients:

- 4 sourdough English muffins, split
- 1 pound maple breakfast sausage
- 6 green onions, thinly sliced
- 1 teaspoon each garlic and onion powder
- Black pepper
- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 3 tablespoons whole milk or cream
- 2-3 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 2 eggs
- 6 slices thick-cut bacon, cooked and crumbled (or packages real bacon pieces)
- Parsley or chives, optional

### Instructions:

1. Heat oven to 375 degrees.
2. Cook sausage in a skillet, breaking it into a fine crumble. Add green onions, garlic powder, onion powder, and black pepper.
3. Reduce heat to low. Add cream cheese and milk and stir until melted and creamy. Remove from heat and stir in cheddar. Let mixture cool.
4. Place English muffins cut side down on a parchment-lined baking sheet and toast for 5 minutes.
5. Whisk eggs well and fold them



Photo by April Lee

into the cooled sausage mixture. Flip English muffins over and top each half with about 3 heaping tablespoons of filling. 6. Bake 15-20 minutes, until the filling is bubbling and golden brown. Sprinkle with crispy bacon and parsley or chives.

Leftovers reheat beautifully in a toaster oven, air fryer, or microwave, making these an easy breakfast to have waiting in the refrigerator for busy mornings.

Happy Soon To Be Fall Everyone!

April Lee is a Chef, Social Media Influencer, & Food Blogger from Chicago that spends lots of time in Watersmeet. Check out her blog at [thetipsyhousewife.org](http://thetipsyhousewife.org), follow on Instagram @thetipsyhousewife, or [TheTopsyHousewife.org](http://TheTopsyHousewife.org) for recipes.

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## Golf Outing Raises Funds

The 16th annual *Founding Fathers Golf Outing* was recently held at Big Sand Lake Club Golf Course in Phelps, raising more than \$10,000 for Phelps firefighters and EMTs. The event has now raised more than \$85,000 over the years. Tournament Director Tom O'Connell said the fundraiser is made possible by a generous community supporting the local fire and emergency medical services. Seventy businesses sponsored the event, with 55 golfers taking part. Two teams tied for first place, with the winner determined by a coin toss. Pat Kuchenbecker and Tommy Legault took home the booby prizes. Following the awards, golfers enjoyed a buffet prepared by Executive Chef Stefano and the Big Sand Lake Club staff.

Photo by Sharon Gifford



Event Coordinators with 1st Place Team (L-R): Steve Waier-donation coordinator; Jon Racine-winner, Austin Buell-winner, Tom O'Connell-tournament director, Cody Buell-winner, and Ron Buell-winner.

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## HEALTH & WELLNESS • Stay Healthy This Fall

by Dr. Doug Tansor



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

**"And in the morning, I'm making waffles!"**

Summer is somehow flying by. I'm not sure if it was the longer winter compared to the last couple years that is somehow making the summer months seem very short, but I'm extremely grateful for the beautiful weather we've had and all the time I've gotten to spend with family. This past weekend I also had the pleasure of working on some equine patients. Don't get me wrong, I appreciate my human patients, but there's something about adjusting horses that holds a special place in my heart.

This weekend I worked with an 18 year old Welsh pony (a little guy). What's funny is that his owners called him sassy. He however was the sweetest guy. As we worked through the adjustment, his head continued lowering and his eyes were closing. In horse talk, this means he was relaxed and enjoying the bodywork. This guy is a hard worker- he does pole bending, barrel racing, and trail riding. He has had chiropractic care in the past which was obvious since he stood so well for the adjustment. His owner noted that

after his adjustments in the past, she could tell that his movement was more fluid and precise. Her main goal is to keep him moving and help him age gracefully. I personally enjoy working with patients on a wellness basis rather than just a pain basis.

Polar opposite of the previous horse was a 16 year old Percheron Friesian cross. For those of you who don't know about breeds of horses, these horses are extremely tall and commonly black. She is an absolutely beautiful horse. Her owners were unsure if she would stand still for the adjustment. But again, as soon as I started working, this horse hardly moved at all. I adjusted two low back segments and also worked on her intertransverse joint. As horses age, these joints are placed under increasing stress and can eventually become fused. The intertransverse joints play an important role in stabilizing the spine and transferring power from the hind end. Regular chiropractic care can help maintain movement in these joints, reducing the likelihood of fusion and the development of chronic arthritis.

Another horse I worked with had limited range of motion turning his head to the right. This guy does some occasional light riding, but he's mostly a pasture pet. His owner loves him dearly though and doesn't like to see him in pain. His owner would like to ride him more frequently, but he always seems

sore after short rides. I'm hoping that after a follow up visit or two, that some of the vertebra I worked on will have better motion and this older horse can get out on the trail more often.

Our last exciting animal of the day was the cutest donkey. My boys tagged along to observe and ask questions, and Marshall was very excited to meet this friendly furry donkey. One of Marshall's favorite movies last summer was actually *Shrek*. Not long after meeting the donkey, Marshall exclaimed, "And in the morning, I'm making waffles!" in his silly little voice. For those of you who don't know the movie *Shrek*, this is a famous line from the talking donkey named "Donkey". Marshall's curiosity didn't stop there. While working in the barn with a different horse, one of the horses kept knocking on the barn door from outside. After confirming the knocking was indeed a horse, almost immediately Marshall stated, "I think he wants to come in to get adjusted." Kids really do say the darnedest things and they bring a smile to everyone's face.

Dr. Doug has owned and operated a family practice since 2014 specializing in full family chiropractic care, as well as treating high caliber athletes such as NHL, NFL, and UFC competitors. Dr. Doug also is certified in animal chiropractic and loves working with senior pets (dogs, cats, and horses). Doug's family has had a home in Land O' Lakes since the early 50's and he has grown up spending many summers in the Northwoods of Wisconsin.

## WI State Record Walleye Program

Steve Gilbert, Wisconsin Fisheries Historian, will be the next speaker for the Land O' Lakes Fish and Game Club program on September 1st at 6:30pm. His topic is *The Search For Wisconsin's State Record Walleye*. The program will be held indoors at Lowenwood, 5400 N. Black Oak Rd, Land O' Lakes. Gilbert's talk will follow a 10 year quest to uncover the details behind Wisconsin's state record walleye. This record is Wisconsin's oldest and was caught by an angler in 1933. Interestingly, the fish came out of High Lake right here in Vilas County. Gilbert is a retired fisheries biologist with the state of Wisconsin who has spent most of his career in Vilas County. He notes that he has always been interested in history with a special love of conservation history. This led him to publish several articles and present talks on Wisconsin's long and interesting conservation history. He also writes the *Fishing Tales from the Dockside* column for the Wisconsin Outdoor News. He will take questions following the program. The Wisconsin State Record Walleye program is free and open to the public.

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# NATURAL CONNECTIONS • Weirdos in the Kaleidoscope

by Emily Stone Photo by Sharon Gifford



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

Late summer days are a kaleidoscope of vibrant flowers in all colors of the rainbow. Some of the blossoms have their perfect petals neatly arranged while their leaves form regular patterns up their stems. They are a testament to the precision that can be written into genetic instructions for growth.

I find myself drawn to the weirdos, though, like the pearly everlasting flowers woven into a new shape by black-spiked caterpillars, or the milkweed leaves whose tattered appearance hints at a feeding frenzy. These weirdos are great examples of how our relationships with other beings can be both messy and emergent.

Near the milkweeds is a thick patch of goldenrod. They weren't quite blooming last week on my safari, but many of the stems were topped by arching plumes of little green buds, just about to burst into soft yellow flowers. Several of these stems, though, were topped by tufts of leaves, as if the stems had been pulled through pinched fingers and all the little green triangles collected in a bunch. They looked a bit like doll-size cabbages. Weirdos indeed!

Goldenrod galls like these were my first introduction to insect galls back in college. I remember walking through a field on a nature hike at the very beginning of Fall Block—a requirement for my Outdoor Education major—and finding both the round ball galls I've written about before and these leafy cabbage galls on the goldenrods.

I'd never heard of galls before, even though there are likely over 100,000 species of insects who lay their eggs on a plant, have their larvae chew their way in, then induce the plant to grow some form of house around the larvae. The larvae then drink the plant juices and enjoy the gall's protection. Eventually each insect metamorphoses and emerges as an adult, ready to lay eggs and start again. Gall-forming insects include species of midges, flies, wasps, and mites. Each insect parasite has their own preferred host plant.

Knowing this, I thought a quick search for "goldenrod cabbage gall" would give me all the information I needed. Instead, according to an article about galls on the iNaturalist website, there are at least a dozen insects who create similar leaf bunch galls on goldenrod!

Picking my way through the descriptions of the top two galls, I realized that if I knew what species of goldenrod they were on, that would help with insect identification. But looking at a list of characteristics that separate Canada goldenrod from giant goldenrod, I still wasn't sure. Some species, like the delicate zig-zag goldenrod of forests, or seaside goldenrod of shorelines are pretty distinctive, but these big plummy types can be tricky.

So, I texted Sarah Boles, a native landscaper and long-time museum volunteer who planted these gardens and asked what species of goldenrod she'd put in. "None!" was her reply. All the goldenrods in our pollinator gardens blew in of their own accord,

on tiny seeds carried by fluffy parachutes built for pioneering.

Finally, I decided to crack open a gall to see what I could find. Breaking the leaf cluster off the top of the plant, I split it open from top to bottom down the center. I'd expected a central chamber with a single larva, not all that different from the ball galls we dissect with sixth graders during our MuseumMobile programs. Instead, the gall looked empty. Then something moved. A tiny yellow larva wiggled out of a tiny chamber formed by the curled base of a miniaturized leaf.

Ah ha! Using that search image, I could now see that almost every leaf base held either a larger yellow or a smaller white larva. Some of the yellow larvae had a stomach full of green visible through their translucent sides. Now it was clear, these galls were formed by the gall midge *Rhopalomyia capitata*, whose galls are dormitories with 6-20 roommates. Knowing that, I could also assume that the flower was a giant goldenrod—*Solidago gigantea*. The insects had done the plant identification for me!

Looking again at the plants, I could now see that all the goldenrod with cabbage galls had smooth stems among the flowers, while the others had hairy stems. It had been hard to be confident about these subtle characteristics without the insect's help.

Sharing my story of discovery with Sarah, we got to chatting about how goldenrod was taking over the gardens and needed to be cut back to allow the milkweed, spiderwort, fig-

wort, and other plants to survive. Gazing out over the garden, I realized that the plants with galls on them were shorter, with many fewer flowers, some wouldn't have any flowers at all. They wouldn't be able to contribute as much to goldenrod's spread. Perhaps these little midges are Nature's way of keeping goldenrod in balance. The weirdos have their place in the vibrant kaleidoscope of the world!

You can discover more about Emily Stone through Natural Connections online at [cablemuseumnatural-connections.blogspot.com](http://cablemuseumnatural-connections.blogspot.com). For more than 50 years, the Cable Natural History Museum has served to connect you to the Northwoods. Connect on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and [cablemuseum.org](http://cablemuseum.org) to keep track of our latest adventures in learning.



Photo by Emily Stone

This odd growth form on a goldenrod plant is called a cabbage gall. It is caused by a type of insect called a midge

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## 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).

### Fishers of Men

And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19)

I like fishing. I've got everything I need to go fishing and then some. I occasionally read fishing magazines or books, and I've been known to watch fishing TV programs. I often talk about going fishing with friends. But there's a problem, I very rarely actually go fishing. Thus far this year I've only been out once, and on that occasion I didn't get a single bite. So I can really only say that on one occasion this summer I took my tackle box for a boat ride. This, however, does not stop me from lamenting the lack of fish that I've caught.

Many Christians suffer from a similar problem. Jesus has called us to be fishers of men. That is, we are to share the gospel with the hope of see-

ing people come to salvation in Christ Jesus. However, we will often talk about fishing. We will read books on fishing. We'll attend symposia and workshops to teach us fishing techniques. We'll talk with our fellow Christians about the need for fishing and how someone really ought to be trying to catch more fish. We've got committees to send people to the remotest parts of the world on great fishing trips. We pastors will encourage people on Sundays that they need to go fishing, and oftentimes we'll walk out of church with every intention of going fishing that very week. We may even have a particular fish in mind that we want to try and catch. However, the following Sunday we just come back to church with a whole bunch of new fish stories.

Meanwhile, a young lad who has never attended a single symposium or workshop on fishing. Who just has a beat up old cane pole, a couple of hooks, and a bobber. Who has none of the backing of committees or anything else special. This young fellow goes down to his

local pond and lo and behold, he catches a fish. Well everyone rejoices at the momentous occasion (as we should whenever someone catches a "fish"), but then they wrongly conclude that this kid must be some sort of fishing phenom. Surely he must possess some special God imparted skills, or a special gift of the Holy Spirit in order to so readily catch a fish. However, he is no more gifted or skilled than any other Christian. Rather, he just did what Jesus told him to do and he actually went fishing.

Friends, when was the last time you shared the gospel of Jesus Christ with someone? When was the last time you actually threw a line in the water to see if you could get a bite? It could be that many of us need to do a bit less talking, and a bit more fishing.

See You Sunday ~ Pastor Rob.  
Pastoryerks@gmail.com, 906-358-4744.

## Phelps Museum Future Plans

The Phelps Historical Museum opened in 2010 to preserve and share the community's history. In 2015, the museum secured a loan to expand its vision, and in December 2025, the loan was paid in full. The museum now owns its building on HWY E.

With \$57,000 already invested in professional construction plans, the museum is ready to move forward with a planned \$1.5 million expansion. The project will provide needed space for collections, exhibits and visitors, while climate-controlled areas will help protect historic treasures for future generations.

Museum President Pauleyn Nystrom said the expansion will preserve Phelps history, honor veterans and local residents, provide educational opportunities, and create a lasting legacy for the community.

The Capital and Expansion Museum Council is seeking community support through one-time gifts, pledges, or legacy donations. The museum has partnered with the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin and the Phelps Area Community Foundation to help donors support the project.

For more information, call 715-545-3012 or visit the museum. Summer hours are Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday, 10:00am-2:00pm., and Thursday, 4:00pm-8:00pm.

Photo by Sharon Gifford



(L-R): Museum Vice-President Joan Barrett and President Pauleyn Nystrom display a model and photograph of the planned museum addition.

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by Karol Wilson

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The ride began in Ontonagon and traveled to several historic mining sites, including the former community of Old Victoria Village. Riders stopped for lunch at Victoria Dam before

continuing to the ruins of the Victoria Mine.

Local historian Don Castle accompanied the group, sharing stories of the region’s copper mining history and displaying historic photographs that brought the sites to life.

The ride drew its largest turnout to date, including many first-time participants. MI-TRALE

Vice President Jon Fourez led the group, keeping riders safely together throughout the day.

The event was organized by MI-TRALE and the Ontonagon County Chamber of Commerce and offered participants a unique opportunity to explore the area’s trails while learning more about its mining heritage. See you in 2027!



CopperFest Historic ORV Ride lunch stop taken at Victoria Dam.

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