



Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve 2023 Education Programs

For 34 years, MIWP has preserved Island lands, helped manage invasive plants and explored environmental issues important to Island residents. Please join us this summer to hear about our storied wilderness and immerse yourself on this special place that is Madeline Island. All programs are free and open to the public, except the Annual Meeting & Evening Reception. Classes and hikes will be held rain or shine. Programs at the museum theater have a 70-person capacity.

Saturday, May 27th

Program: Annual MIWP Bird Hike

Time: 8:00AM

Location: Madeline Island Town Park

Hike Leaders: Victoria Erhart MIWP Board Member and Peter Hudleston, Professor of Geology University of Minnesota

Summary: A hike for beginners and experts alike. Bring binoculars and wear waterproof footwear.

Saturday, May 27th

MIWP Annual Meeting and Evening Reception

Reception: 6:00PM

Program: The Gift of the Loon, 7:30pm

Location: Madeline Island School of Arts

Cost: Hearty appetizers and wine \$35.00/person

RSVP: see MIWP website, miwp.org

Deadline: May 17th, or 100-person limit

Speaker: Nancy Langston is a Distinguished Professor of Environmental History at Michigan Tech. For decades she spent summers in a tiny cabin just outside of Cornucopia, and now she lives on the shores of Lake Superior in Keweenaw Bay.

Summary: Environmental historian Nancy Langston explores the history and restoration of common loons in the upper Great Lakes watershed. Langston delves into how climate change, toxic chemicals, and energy extraction have affected loon populations. She explores ways we can ensure a hopeful future for loons as well as ourselves.

Saturday, June 10th

Program: Early Summer Foraging for Mushrooms

Time: 10:00AM to Noon

Location: Capser Trail, Middle Road Trailhead

Leader: Samantha Dobson: naturalist, educator and year long Island resident

Summary: Learn about how to ethically and sustainably harvest early-season mushrooms—specifically, oyster mushrooms on Madeline Island. Learn about weather patterns, phenology, habitat and safe harvesting techniques. Also learn how to store and preserve your harvested mushrooms. Finding mushrooms is not guaranteed but likely.

Wednesday, July 5th

Program: Northern Nights, Starry Skies — film screening

Two Shows: 5:30PM and 7:00PM

Location: Madeline Island Museum

Summary: Production of PBS North and WRPT. John Shepard, producer, will be showing the film. NNSS is a 60-minute documentary celebrating star-bright skies, Dark Sky Places, Indigenous star knowledge, and our stewardship of the night sky.

Wednesday, July 12th

Program: Loon Watch

Time: 7:00PM

Location: Madeline Island Museum

Speaker: Erica Lemoine, Loon Watch Coordinator, Sigurd Olson Institute

Summary: At this presentation you will learn about loons, their calls, their ecology, and hear stories that teach us how to protect them. A great program for adults and kids alike – with time for questions.

Tuesday, July 18th

Program: Summertime Book Gathering: “Circling Down Wind —An Introduction to Henry David Thoreau’s Walden”

This program is a collaboration with the Madeline Island Book Club, see www.miwp.org for zoom address.

Time: 7:00PM

Location: Madeline Library, second floor

Leader: Alan Brew, Dean of the Faculty and director of Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute at Northland College.

Summary: In his book *Sky’s Witness*, E.L. Rawlins confesses that he can’t read more than a page or two of *Walden* at a time. “I can’t charge up to it face on and read straight through,” he writes. “I always examine the cover for a while, then circle downwind.”

In making this confession, Rawlins likely speaks for many of us; Walden can be intimidating, especially if you attempt to read it straight through. In this presentation, Alan Brew will offer suggestions for the approaching Walden from the downwind side, dipping in a few pages, or a few chapters, at a time.

Readings: Participants are welcome to read all of Walden prior to the presentation, but for those interested in the downwind approach, Alan recommends doing one or more of the following: (a) read the first six paragraphs of the first chapter, "Economy"; (b) approximately ten pages in from the beginning of "Economy", begin reading after a section break from "Let us consider for a moment..." through a number of paragraphs to "How can a man be a philosopher and not maintain his vital heat by better methods than other men?"; (c) read the chapter "Where I lived, and What I lived For," or at least the final paragraph of the chapter; (d) read "The Bean-Field"; (e) read "The Village"; (f) read the final chapter "Conclusion."

Wednesday, July 26th

Program: Ladies of the Lighthouses

Time: 7:00PM

Location: Madeline Island Museum

Speaker: Bob Mackreth, Apostle Islands Historian

Summary: For nearly a century, the lighthouses of the Apostle Islands served a dual purpose: navigational beacons and family homes. Scores of women raised families at the light station, several gave birth out on the islands, many tended the lamps along with their husbands, and more than one performed acts of genuine heroism. Join historian Bob Mackreth for a close look at the women who rose to the challenges of life in this extraordinary environment.

Wednesday, August 2nd

Program: How to Use Your Harvested Mushrooms: Tips, Tricks and Recipes for Home Preservation

Time: 7:00PM

Location: Madeline Island Museum

Speaker: Samantha Dobson, naturalist and educator, and year-round island resident

Summary: Learn about foraging for wild mushrooms and how to preserve, store and enjoy your mushrooms through the season and winter months. Discussion will include common wild mushrooms found on Madeline Island and region.

Wednesday, August 16th,

Program: Chequamegon Bay Birds...and How to Save Them

Time: 7:00PM

Location: Madeline Island Museum

Speaker: Ryan Brady, Conservation Biologist, Wisconsin DNR Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation. He works on a variety of statewide bird monitoring, outreach, and conservation projects.

Summary: Birds being joy to many of us. Yet recent studies show alarming declines in many species, including backyard favorites like orioles, jays, and juncos. Fortunately, there is hope. In this presentation, get to know the birds of the Chequamegon Bay region, how their populations are faring, and actions we can all take to stem the declines and attract more birds to our own backyards.

Wednesday, August 23rd

Program: Beavers, for Biodiversity, Climate Resilience and restoring the Hydrology of Lake Superior

Time: 7:00PM

Location: Madeline Island Museum

Speaker: Bob Boucher, MS in Water Resource Management from UW Madison, with a focus on Ecosystem management in Watersheds. He is an advisor to the Beaver Institute and has been an invited presenter on Beaver Hydrology at numerous national and international conferences.

Summary: Beaver ponds and canals created by dams are the natal structure of all rivers in North America. Rivers that are Fully Beavered have numerous ponds in the upper branches and are rich in supporting biodiversity, while also providing critical water quality benefits. Beaver dams, with the resulting ponds and canals filter water, recharge ground water, reduce peak flows during flooding events, cool water in summer and warm it in winter. With Climate Change we are seeing instability in weather patterns.

We are also in global biodiversity crisis. At this presentation you will learn how restoring beaver populations and the structures they build is the most cost-effective thing we can do for the health of the Lake Superior watershed while supporting the biodiversity within it.

Saturday, September 9th

Program: Fall Foraging for Mushrooms

Time: 10:00AM – Noon

Location: Schoolhouse Trailhead, 2865 Schoolhouse Road

Leader: Samantha Dobson, naturalist, educator and year-round island resident

Summary: Learn how to ethically and sustainably harvest late season mushrooms on Madeline Island. Learn weather patterns, phenology, habitat, and safe harvesting techniques. Finding mushrooms is not guaranteed.

Saturday, September 16th

Program: Hike the North End Forest

Time: 10:00-Noon

Location: Meet at new Sowl Trailhead, 3547 North Shore Road

Summary: Explore the North End Forest of Madeline Island. It is a pristine forest with stands of old hemlock, oak and an abundance of mushrooms. The trails are rustic so good hiking boots (waterproof), and an adventuresome spirit are required.

Saturday, October 7th

Annual Fall Hike and Potluck after the hike

Time: 9:00AM

Hike Location: Sowl Trailhead, 3547 North Shore Road

Potluck Location: 3899 Amundson Lane 747-2277

Summary: Join us as we explore the North End Forest of Madeline Island. The North End is pristine forest with stands of old hemlock, oak and an abundance of mushrooms. We will start the hike at the new Sowl Trailhead. The trails are rustic so good hiking boots (waterproof), and an adventuresome spirit are required. Potluck after the hike, everyone invited.