

Summer 2023

The New North

COMPLIMENTARY
COMMUNITY
MAGAZINE



IN THIS ISSUE:

Historical Resorts
Oneida County Fair
Ice Age Trail
... *and more!*

Let It Shine

I love living on the river.

I am so close to nature, and every day I get to say hello to all the creatures that live nearby. Deer, fox, squirrels, chipmunks, and songbirds of all kinds greet me almost every morning. Then, here come the river friends: Otters, geese, swans, loons, ducks, and fish jumping in the water. From my dock, it's both a concert and a party at the same time. My morning dog walk takes me along woods and fields of summer posies that brighten my day no matter what the skies say.

This issue includes many great things found in the Northwoods. Kerry writes about the historic resorts in the area, as well as what to expect from the Oneida County Fair this year. Dan takes us on a walk through the Ice Age Trail. He then introduces us to an artisan who makes fishing rods by hand. All this and more through our summer pages. As always, a huge thank you to our sponsors and advertisers. It is your generous support that makes this magazine possible for the community to enjoy!

Thank you and have a great summer,

Jaclene Tetzlaff
Publisher
The New North Magazine

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SUMMER AT ITS BEST! A BEAUTIFUL
BLUE COCKTAIL TO ENJOY BY THE
WATER

The Lydia

Recipe By **Christian Bovet**

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 oz Gin – the author recommends Thomas Dakin Gin
- 1 oz Peach Schnapps
- ½ oz Blue Curacao
- 4 oz Agalima sweet & sour mix
- ½ oz blueberry real puree, or muddled fresh blueberries
- Club Soda

DIRECTIONS:

Place blueberries in the bottom of a highball glass. Then fill with ice.

In a shaker with ice, combine gin, peach schnapps, blue curacao, shake, and pour over the ice in the glass using the strainer.

Add 4 oz of Agalima and top off with club soda. Garnish with a sprig of fresh blueberries and enjoy.

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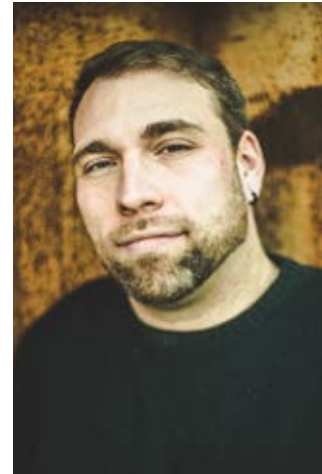
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CONTRIBUTORS



1. JACLENE TETZLAFF

Editor, Publisher, Sales



2. ANDREW EGAN

Graphic Designer



3. KERRY BLOEDORN

Feature Writer, Historian



4. TOM BARNETT

Designer, Illustrator



5. DAN HAGEN

Feature Writer



6. JANET JAMISON

Positively Rhinelander



7. PETE ZAMBON

Feature Writer

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Rhinelanders Tourism Brochure Circa 1950s

HISTORIC RHINELANDER AREA RESORTS

Written by Kerry Bloedorn



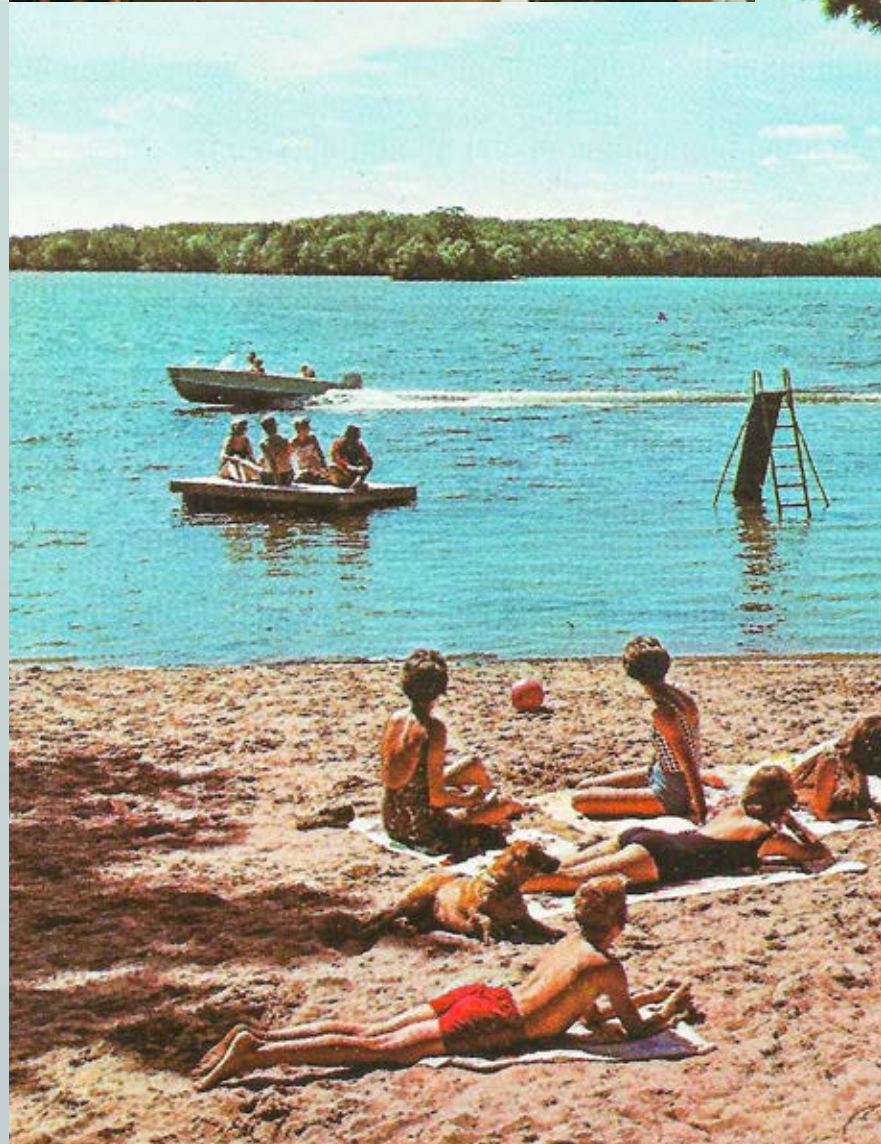
“... I quickly realized that history in the area from past to present covers over 120 years, and over 100 Resorts”

This being a magazine, limits the scope of information I'm able to cover. The good news is, Rhinelanders resorts have the same threads of history woven into each other, and connects them into a tapestry of Northwoods summers, family fun, and memories.

From the big resorts with stately lodges, to the small resorts with just a few cottages, they all existed for the same purpose, and visitors to these magical places have come for the same reasons, for decades. Children playing, glasses clinking, splashes in the water, campfires crackling, songs being sung, and the sound of a paddle or boat motor across the lake are the timeless sounds you'll hear. The same in 1923, as in 2023. They are the purpose. The magic. The memory making moments that tie the past with the present, those that make Northwoods resorts that special place.



Holiday Acres Three Coins Dining Room



Pre-1900

Resort history of the Rhinelanders area is closely tied to the whole of Northern Wisconsin's resort history. After the "big cut" in the late 1800s, lumber boom towns like Rhinelanders began to reinvent themselves as the timber dwindled. One of the ways Northwoods communities did so, was to focus on tourism.

In the late 1800s, logging companies began selling off large parcels of lake front property that had been cut. Some trees would be left along the shore to entice future sales, but the primeval forests were gone. Second growth forests replaced the old growth, slowly but surely, bringing the Northwoods back to its former self. Of course, the lakes were still as clean and plentiful as they had been since the melting of the last glaciers some ten thousands years before. The lakes were the

's Pine Valley Lodge on Moen Lake 1960s



PINEWOOD LODGE, THOMPSON LAKE, NEAR RHINELANDER, WIS.—35



RIDGEWOOD HOLIDAY HOMES - LAKE THOMPSON RHINELANDER, WIS. 5-1574



Swimming in Lake George at Merry-Dale Resort 1940s

“The lakes were the calling card”

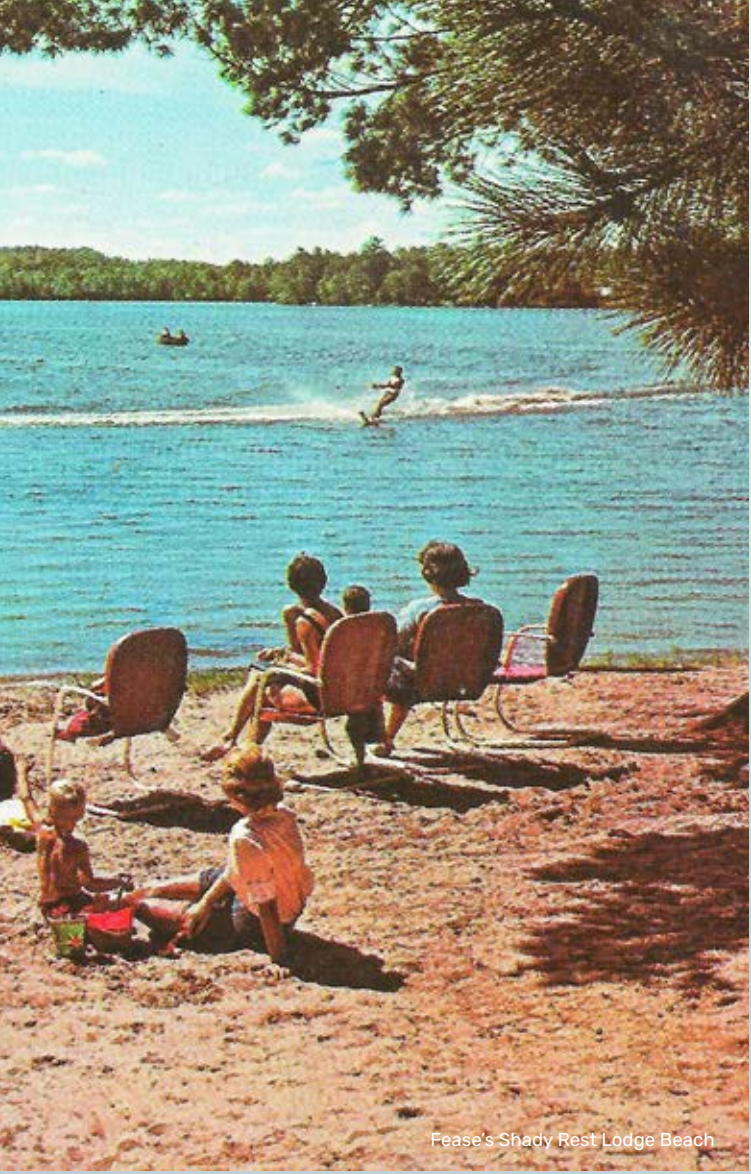
calling card.

As the railroads quickly ran their steel webs into the Wisconsin frontier, people from urban areas sought ways to escape the big city life for a little respite. During the early 1900s, large cities were becoming extremely polluted by the industrial age, and the clear skies of Northern Wisconsin were advertised as the cure for all ails.

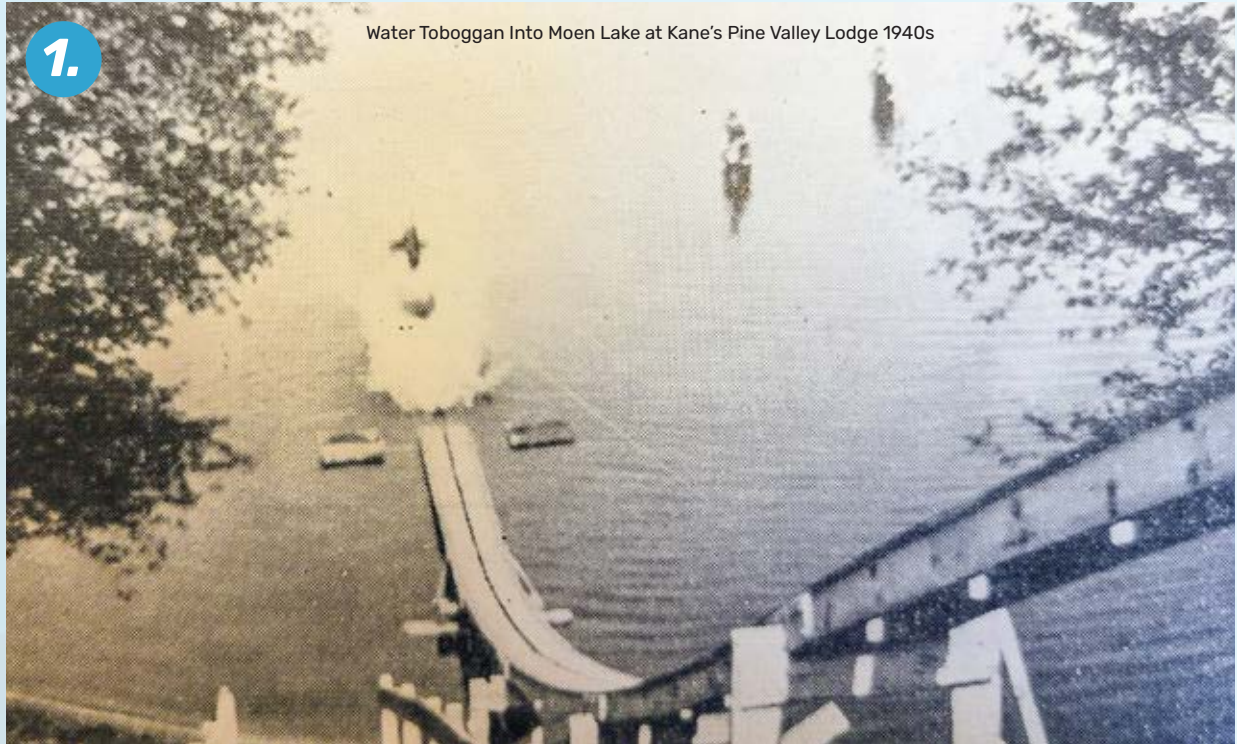
With 232 lakes within 12 miles of Rhinelander, we see the area’s resorts quickly popping up. Many of them are now long forgotten, they were the pioneers of the resort era. Places like Lindgren’s Resort, Swail’s Resort, and Fredd Tripp’s, “New Pleasure Resort.” They were started primarily for hunters and fisherman who wanted to enjoy the wild frontier-like Northwoods of Wisconsin. So few and small were these places, they are mentioned by name only in early news articles, presumably because you just came to town and asked, and were thereby sent.

1920-1940

The post WWI roaring 1920s and into the 30s saw major resorts being built, such as Pinewood Lodge on Lake Thompson, Shorewood Vista on Lake George, and Moen Lake Park and Pavilion, later Pine Valley Lodge. These types of resorts incorporated beautiful lodges built of stone and log, dance halls, and accommodating cabins, although they maintained the rustic charm for which vacationers were coming north. But whether the resort was big or small, they all enticed tourists north with the same basic



Fease’s Shady Rest Lodge Beach



1.

Water Toboggan Into Moen Lake at Kane's Pine Valley Lodge 1940s



2.



4.



5.



6.

Vintage Boats at Holiday Acres - Present Day

1. Water toboggan into Moen Lake at Kane's Pine Valley Lodge 1940s
2. Fishing boats beached at Pine Valley Lodge
3. Fishing boat fleet docked at Merry-Dale Resort 1940s



Fishing boats beached at Pine Valley Lodge, Moen Lake



Fishing Boat Fleet Docked at Merry Dale Resort 1940s



Berts Resort

4. Pinewood Lodge Rhinelander, WI
5. Bert's Resort
6. Vintage boats beached at Holiday Acres - Present Day

3.

natural features; clean pine scented air, clear lakes, fishing, boating, sandy beaches, campfires, and a place to relax from the hustle and bustle of every day life. Many of these activities are the same that draw people north today, 100 years later.

During this era, resorts began advertising various “plans” by which their establishments were operated. The “American Plan” included three meals a day on site, the “European Plan” included four meals a day. Most cabins included housekeeping services as well. During this age of heightened railroad travel, the resorts were run in an “all inclusive” style, so that once you arrived, you never had to leave. Many included dining areas, or small taverns overlooking the lakes on which they rested. In fact, many small stops along the railroad lines catered to the resorts, where you could find a small covered area, or boxcar, to stay out of the weather as you awaited the resort owner to transport you to your vacation destination. One of these stops can still be seen on Lake George Rd, in what was known as Satuit. Stops were also made at Manson Lake, Crescent Lake, Moen Lake, and others.

1940-1970

The next big resort boom occurred just after WWII. The Northwoods still had lakeside pockets of peace and serenity, and the area saw an influx of growth. The post war economy was also a factor in providing families with more time and money for vacations.

Rail travel was still prominent during this time, but highways and back roads continued to be improved. Automobiles became more readily available, and so you saw more families visiting with personal vehicles than in previous decades.

The growing Better Resorts Association was organizing its operation. Each resort owner played a role as they sought to increase their visi-

► Historical Rhinelander Area Resorts Cont.

bility in large cities to the south. This group was a precursor to, and would later join forces with the Rhinelander Chamber of Commerce. The “B.R.A.” did much to entice visitors to the area.

The 1950s saw the height of Rhinelander area resorts. A 1955 resort pamphlet lists over 45 resorts operating amongst all the major lakes in the area.

During this era, you found many families becoming loyal to a particular resort, returning year after year, and always the same week. Families from the same communities would tell their friends, and families, and the group might get larger over the decades.

Resorts were often run by a couple, or it was a family affair. Resort maintenance, cooking, and cleaning were mostly run by family members. The larger resorts did hire help during the summer, and they often stayed on site.

Most all the resorts maintained a fleet of boats. From a couple, to a dozen or more. These boats tethered at the docks along the swimming beach could be used by resort guests for an outing on the water, or fishing. Small “fish houses” were built on resort properties to store gear, or allow a place for cleaning fish. Fishing at Northwoods resorts was so popular, that special trains from Milwaukee and Chicago ran called “the fisherman’s special” which offered overnight travel to a fishing destination of your choice. Returning rail cars would be loaded with wooden boxes stacked with fresh fish, ice and moss for back south.

Almost all the resorts maintained a swimming beach. Elaborate docks, swim areas, and stone patios were constructed for lounging, and enjoying the cool waters of a glacial lake. Other activities available at resorts included horseback riding, dancing, or yard games like Bocce Ball, horse shoes, and shuffleboard. Later some of the resorts had tennis courts built to cater to the more affluent guests.

Post 1970

A lot of the resorts started between 1920-1950 would continue operating into the 70s, often by the same families. Many others changed hands and were renamed several times. As the turn of the 21st century neared, Northwoods resorts had to make some changes. Vacationers, although they still enjoyed the rustic accommodations of the earlier resorts, began wanting more amenities. In-cabin dish washers, telephones, etc... became the norm. Those resorts that couldn’t keep up with the ever-changing times, or couldn’t maintain



Fease's Shady Lake Resort



their aging cabins, were shuttered, or properties sold off for private vacation homes.

There is still a market and continued desire for families that don't own a year-round place up north, to visit and patronize seasonal resorts. Although fewer in number than during the peak resort era, certainly there are many doing good business today. Some of the ways they have adapted are to be open year round, finding ways to cater to autumn color visitors and folks that enjoy winter activities like snowmobiling, cross country skiing, and ice fishing, or young couples looking for a wedding venue.



Connecting Past with Present

Several of the small, long time resorts in the area still operating include Brekke's Fireside Resort, Merry Dale Resort, Pine Valley Lodge, Shady Rest, and Clear Lake Inn, among others.

One long time large area resort that incorporates all of the classic features of the big resorts of yesteryear, such as cabins for rent, a lodge, swimming beach, boating, restaurant and bar, and other amenities is Holiday Acres on Lake Thompson, owned by the Zambon family. The history of Holiday Acres has family ties with the Zambons, Miller's, and Blaesings, all resort owners, going back to the 1920s. Another aspect that makes Holiday Acres stand out is many of its features are open to the public, including beautiful trails for walking, biking, or cross-country skiing. It's a wonderful place to visit for a fish fry or cocktail, and take in the atmosphere of a Northwoods resort, even if you aren't staying for the weekend or a full week. It has adapted to changing visitor needs but retains the charm and ambiance of the resorts of yesteryear.

Rhineland area resorts have a long and fascinating history. From the days before automobiles, to train travel, to today. The Northwoods has been and continues to be one of the most cost-effective tourist destinations in the country, and dare we say, one of the most beautiful and peaceful. We see visitors from all over the nation coming to the Northwoods to enjoy the forests and lakes of the Rhineland area, like they have for over 100 years!

You can find a complete list of Rhineland Area Resorts both past and present, on our website, thenewnorthonline.com. I tried to list them all but know there may be a few that are missing.
Kerry Bloedorn: northwoodshistorian@gmail.com



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Birchwood Lodge,
Blackhawk Resort,
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Engstrand's Idlewood,
Fease's Shady Rest Lodge,
Haeger's Resort,
Haugsbys's Resort,
Hermann's Pleasure Point Re-
sort,
Hixon Lake Resort,
Holiday Acres,
Hoppe's Haven,
Hulbert's Birch Point Lodge,
Hurlbutt's Crescent Park,
Indian Trail Lodge,
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Johnson's Pinewoods Lodge,
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Kafka's Rainbow Resort,
Kane's Moen Lake Resort,
Karr's Cottages,
Keck's Wildernest,
Knauf's Pinewood Lodge,
Kolb's Pine Isle Resort,
Kraner's Breezy Point,
K's Maple Lodge,

Lake Creek Tourist Resort,

Lake Forest Resort,
Lake Julia Resort,
Lee's Sportsman Bar & Cottages,
Leith's Chippewa Cottages,
Lil Johnson Cottages,
Lily Bass Lake Resort,
Limberlost Resort,
Lindgren's Resort,
Manganelli's Rustic Haven
Resort,
Manor Road Resort,
Markowski's Crescent Park,
Merry-Dale Resort,
Mertz Cedar Crest Resort,
Mickey's Sunset Bay,
Miller's Shorewood Vista,
Miller's Country Club Manor
Cottages,
Moonlight Bay Resort,
Musky Bay Resort,
Neal's Merry-Dale Resort,
Neal's Pine Valley Lodge,
Netling's Crescent Lake Cab-
ins,
Never Rest Resort,
New Pleasure Resort,
North Haven Resort,
Northern Gate Resort,
Norwood Resort,
Old Village Resort,
Olson's Timber Shores,
Paliga's Sandy Point Resort,

Panzer's Crescent Park Resort
Peninsula View Resort,
Pearson's Pine Shore Vista,
Peterson's Idlewood Cottages,
Pine Cone Ranch Resort,
Pine Crest Resort,
Pine Harbor Resort,
Pine Point Resort,
Pine Tree Resort,
Pine Valley Lodge,
Pinewood Country Club,
Pinewood Lodge,

Pleasant Cove Resort,
Radtkes Rainbow Cottages,
Rambling Lane Cottages,
Ravenswood Beach Resort,
Rustic Haven,
Rustic Lodge,
Sandy Bay Resort,
Santarius' Merry Dale Resort
Schmitz Resort,
Shangri La Resort,
Shawnee Acres,
Sheldon's Resort,
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Timber Lodge Resort,
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THE ICE AGE TRAIL

..... | Written by **Dan Hagen**, Illustrated by **Thomas Barnett**

Everyone has heard of Yellowstone or Yosemite National Park. But not many know about the Ice Age Trail, even though it's in many Wisconsinites' backyards. One of 11 National Scenic Trails in the country, the Ice Age Trail starts along the St. Croix River in Northwest Wisconsin and meanders through the state, ultimately ending in Door County. It roughly follows the edge of Wisconsin's last glacier that melted tens of thousands of years ago. When that glacier receded, it left a ridge of sediment – what geologists call a “terminal moraine.” Hikers traverse this ridge many times along the trail.



The 1,200-mile trail isn't entirely “trail” per se. Right now, there are more than 600 miles of blazed hiking trail, which means the other 500-plus miles are connector routes on roads.

Every year the Ice Age Trail Alliance steps closer to its goal of swapping out roads for more trail. It helps when they have an army of volunteers. In April, the IATA held their first trail-building session of the year near the village of Rib Lake in Taylor County. Around a hundred volunteers from all over the state swarmed the area, eager to put their stamp on the newest 4.5-mile section. Buzz Meyer of Medford was helping carry heavy rocks using a special harness. The rocks were placed in a wet spot as steppingstones to limit trail degradation and allow hikers to keep their feet dry. “I love working with these people” said Meyer. “It's

Pictured Below: Buzz Meyer on the Ice Age Trail



refreshing and I really feel a part of this whole area.”

Meyer is the chapter co-coordinator, so he takes special pride in adding this new section. There are 19 chapters across the state. The Ice Age Trail had over 84,000 volunteer hours last year, which was more than Yellowstone.

“WE BUILD THIS BEAUTIFUL TRAIL SO IT CAN BE ENJOYED FOR YEARS AND YEARS TO COME” SAID MEYER.

The new Rib Lake segment will be completed at the end of September, with a ribbon-cutting planned for October 1st . If you don't want to wait until October to see what this trail is all about, there are plenty of segments nearby to the Northwoods. Over the next few pages, we'll go over some of them. Completing the full segments will be too ambitious for most people, but worry not – a short out-and-back can be easily done.





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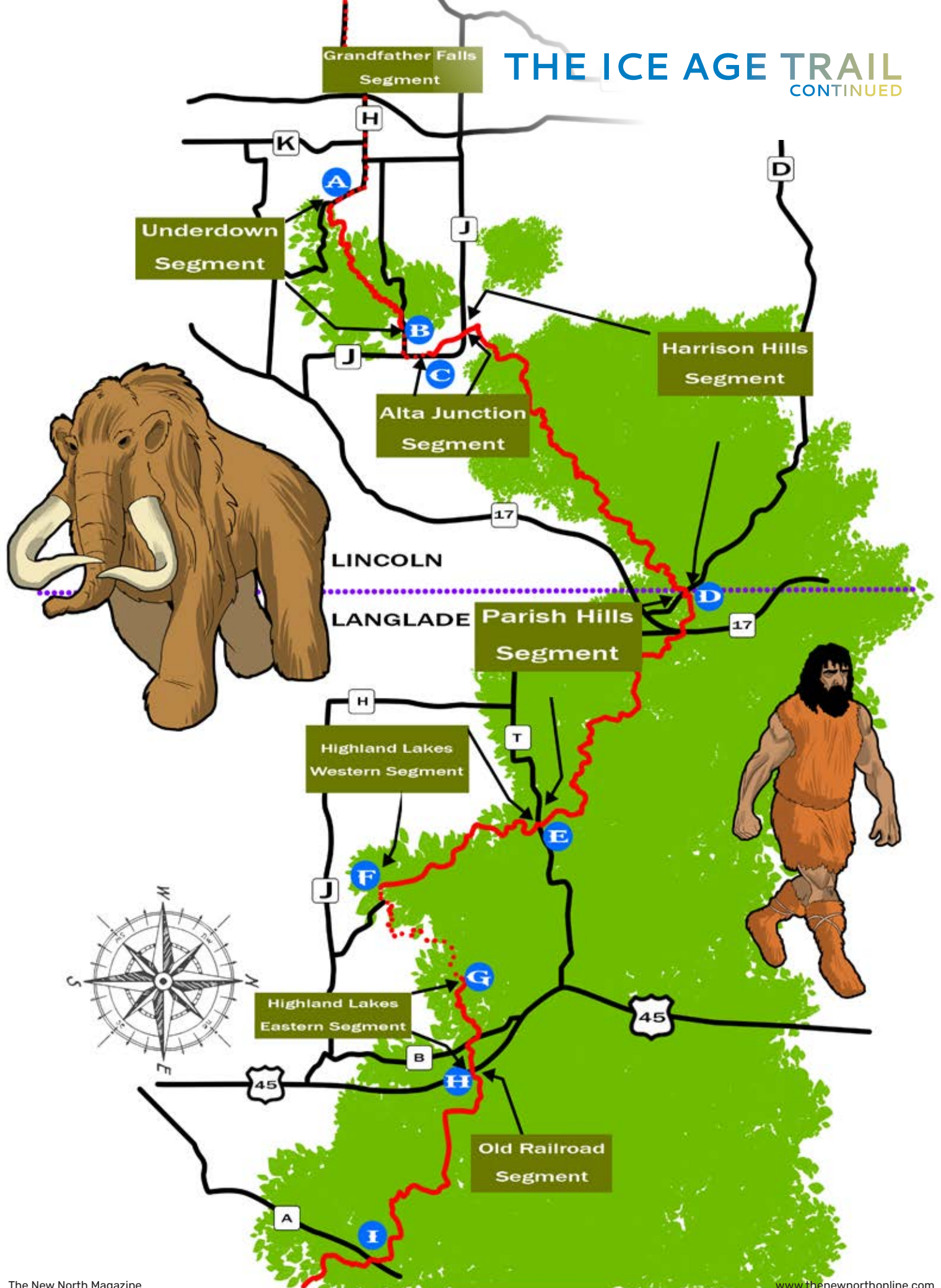
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THE ICE AGE TRAIL CONTINUED



A to B

Underdown Segment

6.3 miles

This hilly segment will get you breathing heavily quickly. The segment starts on Horn Lake Road, and goes the length of Lincoln County's Underdown Recreation Area. A mile in, you'll pass through a thick hemlock grove called the "Enchanted Forest." The rest of the hike passes through thick woods and weaves around a few lakes. The volunteer work is evident as the trail is often cut into a hillside. Near the end of the segment is the site of the original homestead of Bill Underdown. The trail climbs through a recent timber harvest area before reaching its endpoint on Copper Lake Avenue.

C to D

Alta Junction Segment + Harrison Hills Segment

1.2 + 14.5 miles

Alta Junction – This area is known for its natural springs that bubble up from underground. The Alta Springs Bottling Company (late 1800s) and Pay Brothers Alta Springs Bottling Company (1930s) bottled and sold the spring water for medicinal purposes. The southern trail access is on Cty J, and cuts across the Prairie River State Fishery Area. After a hilly area to start, it follows an old railroad path. Old railroad ties can still be seen in some places. The brief segment ends as it intersects Cty J again.

Harrison Hills – The roller-coaster continues in this long, beautiful segment. It's a showcase of glacially impacted topography, with deep kettles and high hills made from melted ice. The highest point on the Ice Age Trail is in the segment – Lookout Mountain at 1,920 feet above sea level. Before you get there, you'll pass through an area filled with small, undeveloped lakes with plenty of beaver activity. At the top of Lookout, there are a few buildings and unfortunately not the clearest view because of summer foliage. As you descend, you'll pass through a deciduous forest dominated by oak and maple trees. The segment ends on First Lake Road, right on the Lincoln-Langlade County line.

D to E

Parrish Hills Segment

11.8 miles

Evergreen trees like spruces, pines, and firs line this rugged segment. Several factors like water levels and logging operations may make navigation difficult. Forging the Prairie River likely means wet shoes. Near the end of the segment, the trail follows the north-east edge of scenic Townline Lake. It's one of two trout lakes in the county and loons can often be seen here. Also, remains of a stone bench and stairs built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s are right before the end of the trail. The segment ends at a day-use picnic area on Cty T.

E to F

Highland Lakes Western Segment

5.9 miles

The segment starts hilly until crossing the West Branch of the Eau Claire River. Then, the trail follows the base of a ridge that is the highest outer moraine ridge anywhere on the entire Ice Age Trail. There are a number of logging roads, so pay special attention to yellow blazes and direction arrows. The segment ends on a primitive road, until hitting Kleevers Road.

G to H

Highland Lakes Eastern Segment

3.4 miles

This segment stays true to its name with many pristine lakes along a rolling ridge. This includes elevated views of Lake Susan through white birch and pine stands. The segment leaves the footpath after the lake and drops down to connect with Camp Susan's entrance drive. At Cty B, hikers will need to walk south along the road for a little bit until crossing on a snowmobile trail. This final stretch is prone to flooding. The segment ends at the busy Hwy 47.

H to I

Old Railroad Segment

9.2 miles

This segment incorporates a former logging railroad line built in 1914 that was active until 1941. Original wooden ties and iron spikes can be seen along the trail. Starting on Hwy 47, the segment heads southeast on mostly forested, flat terrain. It passes through the Jack Lake Cross-County Ski Area, until reaching Veterans Memorial Park, which includes a campground, beach, and arboretum. The segment returns to the typical hilly topography before ending on Cty A.

THE NORTHWOODS:

Written by Kerry Bloedorn

Rich in History, Rich in Museums

The Northwoods Wisconsin lakes country has a number of excellent history museums worth checking out! Here's a list within an hour drive of Rhinelander to explore this summer!

1. Pioneer Park Historical Complex

Rhinelander, WI

Located in Rhinelander's Pioneer Park, along the banks of the Pelican River, it is the oldest logging museum of its kind in the nation, founded in 1932. This village style museum complex covers history from all of Wisconsin and the Northwoods.

It takes you back in time to an 1800s logging camp bunkhouse, cookshack and blacksmith shop. It includes an antique sawmill, authentic one-room schoolhouse, antique fire truck building, one of the most complete Civilian Conservation Corps museums in Wisconsin, and a railroad museum with depot and train on display. Check out the model railroad display in the basement of the depot too! The grounds also have many displays of rare logging equipment and a gift shop.

www.rhinelanderpphc.com



1



1

2. Rhinelander Historical Society Museum and Courthouse

Rhinelander, WI

This Museum is in an historic Rhinelander home on Pelham Street near the Oneida County Courthouse. It features artifacts of Rhinelander's past. The home has been painstakingly returned to its early 1900s appearance. The nearby Oneida County Courthouse, built in 1908, has a beautiful Tiffany-style glass dome, and worth a stop during business hours. The courthouse has a self-guided walking tour.

www.rhinelanderhistoricalsociety.org



2

3. Dr. Kate Museum

Woodruff, WI

The Northwood's first female physician, Dr. Kate Newcomb, is a revered figure in northern Wisconsin.

The life and times of the "Angel on Snowshoes," the famous "Million Penny Parade," and the building of the Lakeland area's first hospital, can all be learned about here in extraordinary detail. Don't forget to follow the snowshoe markings from the museum, down the block and visit the "World's Largest Penny!"

www.drkatemuseum.org



3

4. Minocqua Museum

Minocqua, WI

This museum in a cute little red clad building features lots of local Minocqua history with help from a model railroad exhibit. A beautifully restored early 1900s red Cameron automobile is on display among other items.

Find more information on their Facebook Page

5. Tomahawk Historical Society Museum

Tomahawk, WI

This museum features the history of Tomahawk. Several buildings are on display including its first school, a log cabin, and train in the adjacent Washington Park.

www.tomahawkhistoricalsoc.org

6. Wabeno Logging Museum

Wabeno, WI

This little logging museum was built in 1941 in the style of an old logging camp bunkhouse. Outdoor displays feature one of the only operating Phoenix Steam Log Haulers left in the world. The towering Larry the Log Roller statue can be seen adjacent to the museum.

www.friendsofwabeno.org/historical_attractions.

7. Langlade County Historical Museum

Antigo, WI

What started out as Antigo's Carnegie Library, has become its local museum, including displays of Antigo history, military history, Native American history, CCC materials, and more. The museum also contains a wonderful reference library open to the public. Also on the grounds is the Deleglise Cabin, the first home built in what would become Antigo, as well as a covered train on display.

www.langladehistory.com



7

8. Lumberjack Steam Train and Camp 5 Museum

Laona, WI

The highlight of the Camp 5 Museum is the working 1916 Lumberjack Steam Train. The "4 Spot" train departs an old Soo Depot and travels to the Camp 5 Museum grounds which features logging camp buildings, and more. Visit the museum's web page and be sure to mark your calendars for the ever-popular Cowboy Train Robbery Reenactment in the fall!

www.lumberjacksteamtrain.com



8

9. Eagle River Historical Museum and Depot Museum

Eagle River, WI

These two museums are operated in conjunction with the very active Eagle River Historical Society. The Eagle River Museum is located on Hwy 45 South, and housed in an original boy's camp building from Camp Tecumseh. The Depot Museum, an original Chicago Northwestern Depot built in 1923, is right downtown.

www.eagleriverhistory.org

► Continued on page 22 ...

10. Northwoods Petroleum Museum
Three Lakes, WI

Former petroleum industry professional, and service center owner Ed Jacobsen has collected more than 3000 items from gas stations, and petroleum related history and put them on display just north of Three Lakes.

www.northwoodspetroleummuseum.org



10

11. Three Lakes Historical Society Museum
Three Lakes, WI

The Three Lakes Museum is connected to the Demmer Library. Some of the exhibits showcase the Three Lakes area snowmobiling history and work of the US Forest Service. Famous naturalists and resort owners such as Sam Campbell, and Carl Marty have special exhibits.

www.threelakesmuseum.org



11

12. George W. Brown Ojibwe Museum and Cultural Center
Lac Du Flambeau, WI

The Ojibwe Museum and Cultural Center highlights the long history of the Anishinaabe people and Lac Du Flambeau. One of the most complete collections of Ojibwe history in Wisconsin, visitors can see artifacts ranging from dugout and birch bark canoes, to rare copper and stone artifacts, to traditional clothing and more. The museum also includes a French trading post display, seasonal workshops, interactive exhibits, and a world record sturgeon! The museum is adjacent to the Waaswaanaganing Indian Bowl where seasonal Pow Wows take place and are open to the public.

www.ldfmuseum.com



12

13. Vilas Historical Museum
Sayner, WI

This quaint Northwoods museum features logging, the CCC, wild animal displays, fishing guide history and more! One of the coolest items on display is the first snowmobile ever invented, the Eliason Motor Toboggan. A life size statue of Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox can also be seen.

www.vilasmuseum.com



13

14. Mecikalski Stovewood Museum
Jennings, WI

The Mecikalski Stovewood Museum is the oldest commercial Stovewood constructed building in Wisconsin. Built in 1899 by John Mecikalski, it was restored in the 1970s by the Kohler Foundation, and donated to the town for use as a museum.

Find the Mecikalski Building Museum on



14

This list covers many Northwoods museums, but certainly not all. The Northwoods is also full of dozens of historic sites such as Little Bohemia where the John Dillinger shootout occurred, the CCC Camp Mercer Interpretive Trail, the Fred Smith Concrete Park Outdoor Museum near Philips, or the Eagle River Snowmobile Museum and Hall of Fame, just to name a few.

*Some of these museums are seasonal, so be sure to check the websites for details before visiting. Have fun!

Northwoods Museums Map





Photo by: **Tracie Shoone**



Photo by Artist: **Jennifer Miller, Burlington, Wisconsin**



Photo by: **Laurie Lemke**

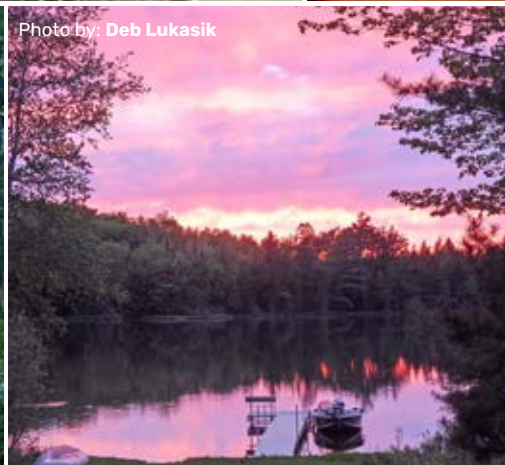


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Photo by **Bev Engstrom**



Photo by **Andrew Egan**



JULY 27TH – 30TH, 2023.

The Oneida County Fair held at Pioneer Park in Rhinelander, Wisconsin – the Oneida County seat, is one of the best little fairs in the state. Nestled among the tall pines of the Pioneer Park, this old-fashioned fair offers fun for the whole family.

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

Last year the fair debuted “Ollie Oneida’s Exploritorium and Exhibit Court.” Named after the fair’s mascot Ollie Oneida, an adorable Northwoods black bear. This space includes the classic exhibition tent, a family stage, kids activities pavilion, petting farm, and a contest and entertainment green space. Daily activities include bubbles, tug of war, and parachute play. Other family fun activities will include face painting, visits from Ollie Oneida, the Rhinelander PD canine unit, Humane Society, Wild Instincts Wildlife Rehab Center, and more!

CONTESTS!

Due to the immense popularity of the OC Fair Contests, participant number has been capped at 20 persons for each contest. Sign Up sheets will be posted at the Fair Office the morning of each contest. Prizes will be awarded for each event!

KIDS WATERMELON EATING CONTEST

Who doesn’t love a classic watermelon eating contest! The fair will hold two days of watermelon eating. Friday, Family Stage, 12noon and Saturday, Family Stage, 2pm

SEXIEST MEN’S LEGS IN A KILT

This year the fair will see the return of its hilarious yet tantalizing “Sexiest Men’s Legs in a Kilt Contest.” Men will don their kilts (kilts provided if needed), and show off their sexy legs in hopes of receiving the coveted genuine leather belt! Hosted by WJFW personality Geoff Weller, it has become a must-see contest at the fair. Saturday, July 30th, Family Stage, 12noon.

IRON WOMAN SKILLET THROWING CONTEST

In 2022 the fair hosted its first “Iron-Woman Skillet Throwing Contest.” The Northwoods is full of strong women, we know because they broke last year’s cast iron skillet in two! How far can you toss a cast iron skillet? Friday, Ollie’s Exploritorium Green space, 3pm

THE GREAT NORTHERN CRAYFISH CARRY RACE

Another new Northwoods inspired contest will be “The Great Northern Crayfish Carry Race.” The goal is to pick up crayfish and race them to your bucket. Most crayfish moved wins! Kids only this year. Friday, Family Stage, 2pm

HAVENS PETTING FARM

Ollie Oneida’s Exploritorium area will see the return of Havens Petting Farm. Over the years, fairgoers have requested the fair pay special attention to the animal acts.

The fair board has listened intently to those concerns and endeavored to seek out a family owned and responsibly run petting farm. Enter Havens Petting Farm from Blue Mound, Wisconsin. These animals are loved on their family run farm and it shows in all they do. The petting farm has limited hours during the fair so they are not over stimulated and are given time to rest. They have a daily food allotment that is strictly adhered to, so they are not overfed by the candy style food vending machines you often see at petting zoos. At night, the animals are transported off-grounds to a local Oneida County farm, where they can have a peaceful night in familiar surrounds.

Havens will bring a proverbial barnyard full of animals from ducks, bunnies, pigs to llamas, goats and more. The pony rides they provide are not your typical horse hooked to a carousel that walks in a circle. Children are able to go on a genuine “trail ride” on hand lead ponies under the trees of Pioneer Park. Havens will be open Friday-Sunday of the Fair.

FOR COMPLETE FAIR INFO GO TO WWW.OCFAIRWI.COM



**Hypnotist
Jim Mitchell**

FRI 7/28 & SAT 7/29, 2023
PIONEER PARK, RHINELANDER, WI

**THE MAGIC OF JIM MITCHELL:
HYPNOTIST, ILLUSIONIST,
COMEDIAN**

Jim Mitchell is from the Fox Valley, and is an accomplished hypnotist, illusionist and comedian. Audience interaction makes for a zany, and mind-bending time for the whole family.

Jim will be performing daily stage shows, 3 times per day, on Friday and Saturday

THE MILWAUKEE FLYERS

Coming from Milwaukee, the Flyers are an electric tumbling team that will spin, flip, and jump during their exhilarating high-flying act. These young men are regularly featured at Milwaukee Bucks games half time performances. This incredible acrobatic will be a big hit!

The Flyers will have multiple performances on Saturday and Sunday



**Tumbling Troupe
Milwaukee Flyers**

SAT 7/29 - SUN 7/30, 2023
PIONEER PARK, RHINELANDER, WI



**The Juggler with the
Yellow Shoes**

FRI 7/28 - SUN 7/30, 2023
PIONEER PARK, RHINELANDER, WI

JUGGLER WITH THE YELLOW SHOES

Dan Kirk is the Juggler with the Yellow Shoes, hailing from Menasha, Wisconsin, Dan's stage performances include a wide variety of juggling, zany balloon twisting, and the use of audience members. He performs around the country to amazed audiences of all ages. He is sure to entertain!

Dan will be on stage and strolling on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Contests - Raffles - Rides - Music - Games

Food - Hypnotist - Milwaukee Flyers -

Kids games - Havens petting zoo - and

MORE!

July 27th - 30th

For a full schedule visit www.ocfairwi.com





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NORTHWOODS MUSIC

ONEIDA COUNTY FAIR LINEUP JULY 27TH - 30TH

The Oneida County Fair strives to change up the music offerings year to year, and give attendees opportunities to see excellent live music at a price that everyone can afford, FREE! So, pick a show, mark your calendars, bring your bag chair down and join the fun this summer at The Oneida County Fair.



NIRVANA TRIBUTE: NIVRANA

Thursday, July 27th, 2023 – 7pm

This Nirvana Tribute show comes from the twin cities and is for anyone that never got a chance to see Kurt Cobain and company live. NIVRANA is the only tribute to Nirvana that gives you the original stage performance, gear and sound just as it was in the 1990s. Once again, you can hear the grunge music that made the era special. The music of Nirvana is authentically brought to life by NIVRANA and dutifully recreates the band that defined an entire generation with their catchy melodies, energetic shows, torn jeans and flannel.

JENNA JANE BAND

Friday, July 28th, 2023 – 5pm

Jenna Jane calls Eagle River, Wisconsin home, but this Nashville recording artist has been putting on the miles, playing everywhere from the Northwoods to Mexico. Featured on stage at Hodag Country Music Festival in 2022, Jenna Jane's popularity is quickly on the rise. Performing original country songs with a selection of great classics we all love to hear.



GIMME SKYNYRD:

LYNYRD SKYNYRD TRIBUTE:

Saturday, July 29th, 2023 – 8pm

The BIG show of the weekend, you won't want miss. Coming from Southeastern Wisconsin, Gimme Skynyrd has been tearing up stages playing all our favorite Skynyrd tunes like Gimme Three Steps, Tuesdays Gone, and of course FREEBIRD! Gimme Skynyrd painstakingly recreates the music of one of the greatest Southern Rock bands of all time.





SANTY AND SON WITH FRIENDS

Sunday, July 30th, 2023 – 1pm

Wrapping up a weekend of great entertainment is one of the most popular groups in the Northwoods! Great musicianship, and great songs, Santy and Son always entertains with every show they perform. Playing a wide variety of your favorite songs from pop to rock and roll will make for a perfect Sunday afternoon.

THE FOXGLOVES

Friday, July 28th, 2023 – 8pm

The Foxgloves are a 6 piece all female powerhouse of bluegrass and Americana music from Eau Claire, Wisconsin. These ladies have amazing vocal harmonies and play a wide range of instruments. Oneida County Fair Attendees won't want to miss this eclectic and amazing show the likes of which have never been seen at The Oneida County Fair before!



STILL RECKLESS

Saturday, July 29th, 2023 – 4pm

Coming from Central Wisconsin, Still Reckless was a winner of the 2022 Hodag Country Music Festival Pickoff. This trio plays all the best 90s country hits with a sprinkling of rock and roll. Many Oneida County locals will recognize Mr. Will Roffers in the lineup; accomplished musician and owner of Rhinelander's Northland Music Store. Still Reckless is sure to entertain on Saturday afternoon at the OCF.

NORTHWOODS UKERS

Saturday, July 29th, 2023 – 1pm

This 10+ person Ukelele ensemble is headquartered in Eagle River. They will be performing the first Main Stage spot under the Big Top on Saturday at the Oneida County Fair.

From rides, animals and family shows, to fair food, contests, and live music, you're sure to find something to enjoy at this year's Oneida County Fair!

We'll see you at the fair!

July 27th – 30th, 2023

For more information, full schedule, vendor info, or to see how you can get involved, visit www.ocfairwi.com

***Fair schedule events, dates, and times are subject to change, so keep an eye on the official schedule come fair time.**

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ROASTING COFFEE AT HOME

Written by: Peter Zambon

“COFFEE IS A STAPLE OF MODERN AMERICAN LIFE”



Of course, not all Americans drink coffee, but take one look around your community, and you are likely to see coffee in nearly every direction. From kitchen counters at home to hotel lobbies, banks, and even hardware stores, coffee is never far from reach. It is a convenience product that energizes one's morning, or helps us kick off a post

lunch 'food coma.' At the same time, we value and adore our caffeine kick. In recent years, the practice of buying whole beans and grinding fresh before brewing has seen an increase in popularity. Some even take this ritual a step further, and venture into roasting their own coffee at home. Roasting at home allows us to have the freshest coffee possible, as well as lowering the costs of enjoying high quality beans. Raw or green coffee as it is known, is often less than half the price of coffee purchased already roasted. If you value ensuring that the farmer who grew your coffee was paid a fair price for their beans, buying green coffee also sends more of your dollars spent into the pockets of producers. Interestingly, until the early 1900's most coffee was roasted at home in a skillet on the stove or a sheet pan in an oven. The advent of industrial production



caused home roasting to fade into obscurity. Today, professional coffee roasters often take their batches of beans neurotically seriously. Computer monitored and controlled roasting used by the pro's can make the idea of roasting your own coffee seem out of reach. Yet, those traditional household methods are still viable and



certainly not obsolete. Using everyday kitchen tools, you can roast delicious, fresh coffee that will taste better than nearly anything found on a grocery store shelf.

Roasting on a sheet pan in the oven is probably the easiest way to roast coffee. Using a skillet or frying pan is more

work, due to the need to stir the beans, but can yield more consistent results than in the oven. Another inexpensive and popular option is to use an air powered popcorn popper. If you have one that you use often, you may want to look for a used one at a thrift store, as any popcorn made after roasting beans will have a roasty flavor once the machine has been used for roasting coffee. The popcorn popper is considered by many to be the best way to get into roasting at home, and its design is an analog of the mechanism of many modern purpose built coffee roasters.



It's best to roast in a well-ventilated area, such as a porch or garage, but a kitchen hood that vents outdoors can also do the trick. Other tools you will want on hand are hot pads, a wooden spoon, and a colander for cooling the coffee at the end of the roast. If you are roasting in an oven, preheat to 450°f. A skillet over medium-high heat is generally a good starting point for experimentation on the stove. Roasting in a popcorn popper does not require preheating. Regardless of your chosen roasting method, the progression of the roast will be similar. During the

first 3-5 minutes the beans will go from green, to a light yellow color. This change in color coincides with the drying of the beans. They will begin to give off a grassy almost hay-like aroma during the early stages. Once yellowed, the beans begin to caramelize, and after 7-9 minutes they will begin to make a popping or cracking sound. This is called 'first crack' and is the result of pressure building up inside the bean during caramelization. You may notice it sounds like popcorn popping. At this stage the coffee will begin to smell more like coffee. Using your sense of smell and ending the roast once you no longer sense grass or haylike notes is a great way to reach a light roast. After this point it is up to you to decide how dark you would like your beans. A minute or two after first crack you will hear a second round of cracks. The 'second crack,' as it is known, has a softer, yet snappier sound, that is somewhat similar to the snap, crackle, and pop of Rice Krispies in milk. Once you hear the second crack, you have reached dark roast territory. You need to be careful roasting extremely dark, as the beans can catch fire. It is not advisable to roast past the end of the second crack, as fire becomes imminent. Generally, you want to end the roast just a little bit lighter than your target, because the beans will keep roasting until completely cooled. To stop the roasting process, dump the beans into your colander and stir the beans until they are room-temp. If you are roasting indoors, cool the beans over a receptacle, as bits of chaff released during roasting will fall through the colander. Note: roasting in a popcorn popper will remove most of the chaff during roasting, but also make a bit of a mess... But as they say, you've got to break a few eggs to make an omelet... I promise the mess will be worth the result!

Once your beans have cooled, store them in an airtight container. They can be enjoyed as soon as 4 hours after roasting, but will often taste best after several days. Freshly roasted coffee is a wonderful treat that few have had the opportunity to enjoy, so if you are looking for a way to make an extra special morning brew, give home-roasting coffee a try!

If you would like to learn more about the process of coffee roasting, or are looking for suggestions on where to find green beans, feel free to reach me at HODAGPETESCOFFEE@GMAIL.COM, I'd be happy to start a conversation! You can also try a cup of coffee made from fresh locally roasted beans at our Hodag Farmers Market stand, Saturdays from 8am-1pm until the third week in October. Hope to see you there!



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Buckshot Anderson

Fishing Guide, Hall of Famer, and Just a Grateful Guy Written by: Dan Hagen

Beautiful.

That was the first word I thought when I arrived at Buckshot Anderson's property in St Germain. The two-story house is nestled between plenty of trees and a babbling creek. A perfect spot for a lifetime sportsman, angler, and lover of nature. His dog Molly was the first to greet me, barking up a storm while I did my best to tell her that I am a friend of the Anderson household. With some help from Buckshot, Molly settled down. Before we sat down for a conversation, Buckshot showed me his "shrine" in the basement. It was full of pictures of a simpler time, with too many fish to count and moments from



his decades of guiding fishing trips. There were also buck antlers, and his plaque recognizing him as a member of the National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame. While his parents gave him the name "Leon" the name "Buckshot" came quickly and stuck. It was a story I had asked Buckshot about before, but I asked him anyway because it makes me laugh every time. "Well, when I was born I only weighed 5 pounds and 2 ounces and I haven't got too much bigger except for in the middle" said Buckshot." A neighbor boy walked over to see the new kid on the block and looked in the crib and told my mother, "Hell, he ain't no bigger than a buckshot." Buckshot stands around 5 and a half feet tall, but what he lacks in height he makes up for in tall tales and real stories too. We went back upstairs and sat in his living room when I started to record our conversation. His wife Peggy sat in a nearby chair paging through a book.

Dan: So, tell me about your dad. How did he come to the area?

Buckshot: My dad inherited the family farm in Oconto County but lost it during the Depression. So, he hitchhiked from Mountain, Wisconsin to Crandon. Then he got a ride to Minocqua. This

was in 1932. He lived in the Minocqua area from 1932 to 1935 That's when he decided this is where he wanted to spend the rest of his life.

D: Was it because of the nature and the lakes?

B: Yep, and he didn't like farming. He was also a lumberjack, so to speak. And so, he scraped together enough to buy 40 acres just about a half a mile south from where we're sitting here now on a small lake at \$3 an acre. He and his brothers-in-law put together a 20 x 24 one-room log cabin in 1938. We moved into it in the fall of 1939 when I was two-and-a-half.

D: How did your dad get into guiding?

B: Great story. He got his first real job in 1941 helping to build the new, brick school in St. Germain from the WPA – one of the government projects. He made \$1.81 a day for a 10-hour day. He worked with Howard "Pop" Dean who was already becoming a famous guide. At that time the world was at war and the United States was getting close to becoming involved. There weren't a lot of tourists coming up here. So, Pop and my dad were digging a hole for a septic tank but Pop stopped coming to work for three days. When he comes back my dad says, "How the hell can you take off work for three days when you got five kids?" It turns out Pop was guiding. Rich people from Chicago would come up and Pop would help them catch fish. My dad says, "Well, how much do you make in a day for that?" He says, "6 dollars." My dad says, "How do you become a guide?" <laughs> And that was that. Dad knew how to fish so it didn't take long for him to make a name for himself.

D: Then you grew up watching him guide. Did you go along on his guiding trips?

B: He started taking me along when I was 14. He could only take two people in a boat back then. So, let's say three or four guys wanted a guide, he'd sometimes bring me along and rent another boat that I could row and follow him in. Back then, you could rent boats for a dollar a day. I also wanted to be a lumberjack as well as a guide. That was my life's ambition. So, to make sure I didn't become a lumberjack, when I was 14 he let me do some logging on his land. I wound up putting \$250 in the bank at the end of the season. And so, I started my freshman year of high school probably the

richest kid in the class <laughs>. I went back the next year and I made \$450. Wow! But I also decided this isn't that fun out here fighting bugs and blackberry briars. It's also lonesome and hard work. And so that's when dad dropped the idea on me – why don't you go to college and be a teacher? And then you got all summer to guide and all winter you'll be in a nice, secure job.

D: So that's when you went to Superior State College? And then did you start guiding and teaching right after that?

B: Yep, and I also helped out on the family resort. I taught in Orlando, Florida from 1960 to 1965 while still coming back for the summers. Then in 1965 the Orlando Sentinel had a headline about Disney building a major complex nearby, and I thought this place is going to become a zoo. So, we came back up here full-time.

D: So, you're guiding, and you must start to meet some pretty notable people, right? Tell me about that.

B: Well, probably the most notable person was Mr. Pavalon, the one I wrote the book about. He went on to be Young Business Man of the Year for the United States Chamber of Commerce. He owned the Milwaukee Bucks and he would bring us down to games, set us up in a motel, and give us seats right behind the Bucks bench all free of charge. Another notable person I had was a congressman from Indiana, Charles Halleck, who served for thirty-plus years in the House of Representatives and led the Republican conference for a time. I fished with him for 17 years. He was a character. Also, presidents of numerous companies – Pittsburgh Paint and Glass, Dolly

► Continued on page 36 ...

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Madison Ice Cream Company. Most of them were just nice people.

D: So, what goes into guiding? Because it's a lot more than just fishing, right?

B: Oh yeah. Well, you're up early and getting your boat ready. And then the routine depends on where the customer is staying, what they wanna fish for, and how good they are at fishing. Then you have to look at the weather and the wind direction. Let's say he wants to fish walleyes and it's gonna be windy out of the southeast. Where can I go? And you just can't have a favorite lake and go there every day. That won't work. You also have to learn when to get the hell off the lake, which I almost didn't do my first year out there. We almost got caught in a tornado. In fact, we stepped off onto dry land just as the tornado sat down on the lake right behind us, and four people drowned on that lake that day.

D: Oh wow, that's terrible.

B: It was a matter of, I knew a storm was coming, but the fish were biting so bad, let's just stay another 10 minutes, you know?

D: Right. Something you'd do as a young kid.

B: I learned that lesson real quick. So anyway, we'd also prepare lunch too. You'd go on land and clean fish, cut up potatoes, fry a pound of bacon for an appetizer, make a pot of coffee, maybe have a can of beans. And days when the fish didn't bite, then you had to become a storyteller, a comedian!

D: So you're a fishing guide, you're a comedian, you're a biologist, and you're a cook.

B: <laughs> That's right.

D: Why do you think you didn't get sick of it? Why do you think you did it for sixty years?

B: I just loved it.

D: But why did you love it?

B: I just, I don't know <laughs>. It was just... it was me. It was the teacher in me, I guess. And loving to see people enjoy themselves, and getting to know so many wonderful people. Having them come back year after year after year made me feel awful good.

D: I want to talk about your writing. You've written

20 books; you wrote journal entries every day while guiding. What drew you to writing as well?

B: I'd always loved to write, even in grade school. I would write little poems and stories. And every year back then, different schools would bring some of the original work to the Vilas County Fair where they'd display it, and then the judges would judge it. Hardly a year went by when I didn't get a couple blue ribbons or red ribbons for my little silly stories and poems. I wrote a few articles for some of the outdoor magazines years ago. Then a friend and I put together a quarterly tabloid called the Guides Journal, that we kept going for five years. But we weren't making any money on it, so we finally gave up on it. And then I decided to write stories of my youth, starting with my first outdoor camping trip with my cousin when I was nine. It was an overnight camping trip, which only lasted till midnight because we chickened out and came home. I also wrote little stories about hunting, fishing, or whatever. I made eight hard copies for our four kids and four grandkids put them up in ring binders. Two of the granddaughters, they were probably sixth or seventh grade, took their copies to their teacher and she started reading these stories whenever there was a little break. One day the girls came in all excited. One says, "Grandpa, grandpa, everybody loves your story! The teacher said, you should get that made into a book." So, I went online and found a self-publisher and had 300 copies of it made. Soon they were sold out, so I had another 300 copies made. And I thought, "Oh, that's just kind of fun." I'm not making a lot of money, but I'm making some money and I'm enjoying myself. So that's what started it.


D: I'm sensing a theme. You keep having these opportunities for things you enjoy pop up, and you just kind of took them. Do you ever reflect on that?

B: I don't know. I just feel I'm one of the luckiest people ever born, <laughs> Yeah.


D: You have a lot of gratitude.

B: Oh yeah. It helps when I've got a woman that's stayed with me for 65 years, <laughs> Buckshot and Peggy then looked at each other and smiled. We all talked for a few minutes more. Finally, I thanked Buckshot for his time, and thanked Peggy as well.

If there's one thing I learned from the legendary Buckshot Anderson, it's to be grateful for what you've got. That pleasant conversation is something I'll have forever.



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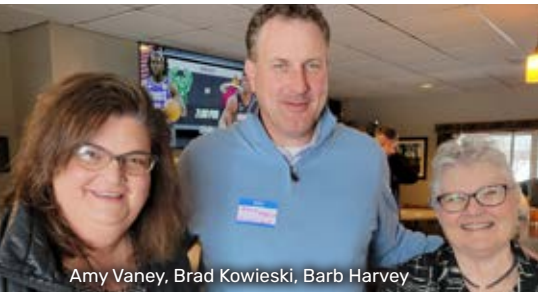
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NORTHWOODS

RHINELANDER COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT RECIPIENTS

The Rhinelander Community Foundation awarded \$38,976 to local organizations on April 19 at the Rhinelander Chamber of Commerce “Business After 5” event held at the Rhinelander Country Club. For a full list of recipients, go to:

www.rhinelandercommunityfoundation.com.



Amy Vaney, Brad Kowieski, Barb Harvey



Gina Heck, Jaclene Tetzlaff, Janet Jamison



Matt Wallmow, Lisa Alsteen, Greg Harvey



Kristin Bonamo, Michelle McDonald, Melinda Childs, Jesse Dick



Courtney Smith, Deb Bowns, Shane Sparks, Ben Opsal, Linda Gary



John Viste, Paul Marquardt, Angie Driefurst

YMCA TEEN CHARACTER AWARDS

Outstanding area teens were recognized on April 23 at the YMCA Teen Character Awards held at The Pines Event Center. Candidates were judged on academics, community service, outstanding character and more. For names and more information go to:

www.ymcaofthenorthwoods.org



Dan Hagen, Jaclene Tetzlaff, Stephanie Dahlquist, Geoff Weller



Photo by Bob Mainhardt

HODAG HERITAGE FESTIVAL



Rhinelanders were particularly glowing green at the third annual Hodag Heritage Days, May 20 in Pioneer Park celebrating the 130th birthday of the Hodag! Weeklong festivities included art contests, a scavenger hunt, a VIP Historical Bus Tour, and citywide promotions.



Cedric & Kerry Bloedorn



Jake Nitzel and Jerry Shidell



Lauren Sackett and Rachel Boehlen

“UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY: COURTROOM SKETCHES FROM THE COLLECTION OF JOEL HIRSCHHORN: Curated by Julie Ryan

In his decades long career, criminal defense attorney Joel Hirschhorn worked on several high-profile cases. Along the way, he collected the courtroom sketches of several of these cases and is now lending them to the summer exhibition at ArtStart in Rhinelanders, May 18 through August 15



Photo by Sally Mode

Joel Hirschhorn and Julie Ryan



NORTHWOODS ARTIST

Written by: **Dan Hagen**

RICH HANDRICK - CUSTOM FISHING POLE CREATOR

“There’s two types of fishermen,” said Rich Handrick in the basement workshop of his Woodruff home. “Some guys view their rods as a tool. They want to catch fish and throw their rod in the bottom



of the boat. But other guys want something unique, and I guess that’s where I come in.”

Handrick’s workshop is quaint, only about 20x20 feet. One wall is occupied by starter tomatoes and peppers, but the rest of the space is devoted to building fishing rods. He has some finished ice fishing rods on the far wall, then some open-water fishing rods on a stand in the middle. Lying around are blanks (a long piece of graphite or carbon fiber), guides (the o-shaped rings that line the finished rod), twine, string, epoxy, and cork. A lot of cork.



“I have kind of a cork addiction,” joked Handrick. “I don’t want to talk about it too much, but I love cork.”

It’s true, Handrick has boxes and boxes of cork, all with different designs and aesthetics. For every rod he makes, he’ll arrange,

glue, and sand the cork until it’s just right. That’s just one small step of making a quality fishing rod. Handrick said he enjoys “puzzles,” or goals that require complex problem-solving. Handrick’s first “puzzle” was catching fish.

Handrick grew up on Marion Lake in Minocqua. His dad didn’t fish.

His mom didn’t fish. None of his siblings fished. He became obsessed.

“I just liked it,” said Handrick. “So, I checked every fishing book I could out from the library and used to just paddle around and just try to figure it out. Fishing has always been a love of mine.”



Handrick developed other interests as well. He plays bass in a local band, and works as an engineer for the Wisconsin DOT. He started building custom rods 15 years ago, likely as a result of three interests – fishing, creativity, and building things.

“Making rods and making music are kind of interrelated,” said Handrick “You can’t just pick up an instrument and be a musician. There’s a certain level of technical ability that you need to practice – it’s hand-eye coordination, it’s getting your brain

to talk to your muscles. Then after learning the skill you can get a feeling or thought in your head and put it into music. Rod building is kind of the same thing, it's a marriage of creative and technical."

Handrick started building rods 15 years ago just for himself. One day he was at Kurt's Island Sports Shop in Minocqua and showed owner Kurt Justice a few rods he had made.

"He was like 'these are beautiful, I should sell these for you.' And I had never really thought about that before," said Handrick.

After that revelation, other responsibilities started to build up for Handrick. He was raising kids and playing in a band. But a few years ago, he decided to get back into making rods and was shocked to see that top-quality materials were now readily available. And yes, that includes cork.

"I was amazed by the quality of the components I could buy now, compared to what I could buy 15 years ago," said Handrick "It was so much better. Now I can make a rod that's far better than you can buy in a shop. Far and away better."

So, he made some new-and-improved rods and brought them over to Kurt.

"He said, Great, can I get 32 of them?"

And it turns out the 32 rods still weren't enough. The response was great. Handrick is still building rods for Kurt, and now he's starting to get people who bought a rod from the Sports Shop and now want something a little more personalized. Right now, he's working on rods with Ohio State colors and Michigan State colors. He's also seeing people reach out to him just because they heard about his business through word-of-mouth.

Handrick's interests – fishing, creativity, building things – led him into his custom rod business. Now, he's found another interest – developing personal connections with his customers.

"When you build rods for people you get to know them a bit," said Handrick. "A guy I'm building for in Michigan – he's getting married so he's having me make rods for groomsmen gifts. Just to be a part of that is really cool for me, and I really enjoy that personal connection aspect of it."

If you want a custom rod built by Handrick, you can visit his business's Facebook page Marion Lake Fishing Rods. He makes ice fishing and open water rods, and can tailor the design and bending strength.

"It doesn't feel like a job," said Handrick. "I want to grow it and have it be a nice little retirement gig. I'm just trying to let it build slowly and organically."



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NAC

THE NORTHERN ARTS COUNCIL
SUPPORTING COMMUNITY ARTS FOR 50+ YEARS

Written by **Julie Bronson**

PURPOSE

Encourage, support, and sponsor arts programs in the community.

HISTORY

In 1966, Robert E. Gard, a professor at the University of Wisconsin, began an experiment called Arts in the Small Community, funded by the National Endowment for the Arts. Rhinelander was one of the five communities chosen. Trusting that the arts are at the “very center of community development change for the better,” Gard believed the arts are for everyone, not reserved “for the wealthy, or the well-endowed museum, gallery, or regional professional theater.” As part of this rural initiative, NAC was formed in 1969. It is now the only surviving arts council from this experiment.

“ TRUSTING THAT THE ARTS ARE AT THE “VERY CENTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CHANGE FOR THE BETTER,” GARD BELIEVED THE ARTS ARE FOR EVERYONE

Robert E. Gard



Cover design by Lisa Sage



2023 NNAC Board Members

For over 50 years, NAC Memberships have made it possible to provide grants for area arts groups or organizations:

- Rhinelander District Library (children and adults)
- Food for the Mind (children's books in food pantries)
- Northwoods Singers and Northwoods School of Dance
- Project North Festival and Land 'O Lakes Artisans
- Campanile Center for the Arts
- Northwoods Choraliers and Rhinelander Male Chorus
- Rhinelander and Lakeland Community Bands
- Lakeland Performing Arts and Oneida County 4H
- Headwaters and WXPR Public Radio
- Rhinelander School of the Arts

Also, NAC has purchased the Hodag statue in front of the Rhinelander District Library; financed potter's wheels and special projects and programs for Rhinelander schools; and initiated an Individual Artist Grant program. Finally, for the last 35 summers, the NAC has partnered with Nicolet College for the Northern National Art Competition.

MEMBERSHIP

Please consider becoming a member of this grassroots community treasure.

For more information and a membership flyer, see our new website at

[HTTP://WWW.NORTHERNARTSCOUNCIL.INFO.](http://www.northernartscouncil.info)

Visit and LIKE our Facebook page or email NAC at nacwisconsin@gmail.com.



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THE COURAGE TO START A TOWN

Perspective of a Pioneer's Descendant

Written by **Jaclene Tetzlaff**

"Hello to the New North calling the Old North." That is the first thing Bruce Defnet said to me when I called him at his home in California. Bruce is a Brown descendant. Yes, the same Brown that was one of the founders and builders of Rhinelander, and the very namesake of our Main Street. Bruce's mother, Margaret was the daughter of Walter Dexter Brown, one of the first to journey here along the footpaths of the native Indians.

THE NEXT PAGE SHOWS A POEM AND WATERCOLOR DONE BY WALTER AS AN ODE TO HIS BELOVED NORTHWOODS OF RHINELANDER.

Bruce reminisced about his grandfather referring to the Northwoods as "The Pinery," and how Walter knew lumbering alone wouldn't sustain the community. He was very proud indeed to have started the paper mill to ensure the vitality of the community he built. "Imagine, the courage to start a town!"

exclaimed Bruce. "I don't know many people who have done that." Walter Brown was also involved in starting Merchants Bank, and the Telephone Company, among other endeavors.

Bruce grew up in Antigo, where his father owned a lumber yard. His immediate family moved to Rhinelander his junior year in high school. Upon high school graduation, he enrolled in the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He spent his college years in the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity, just like his grandfather. Growing up in the Northwoods allowed Bruce to become an avid skier, so when he graduated from Madison, he headed out west to Denver, and worked for a ski manufacturer. He moved to California in 1985 and has been there since. He has tentative plans to visit Rhinelander this summer. I hope he does.

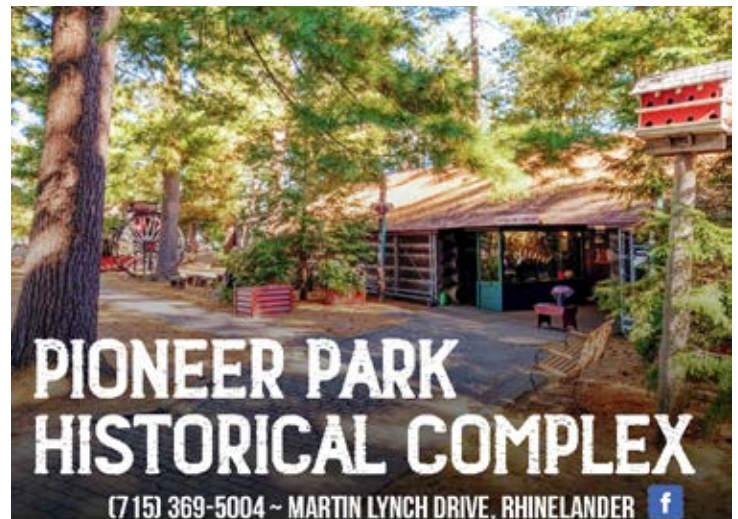


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A poem and painting by Walter D. Brown



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