

# DEEP PORTAGE Learning Center

## Winter 2022

### Deep Portage Learning Center

2197 Nature Center Dr. NW  
Hackensack, MN 56452  
Phone: (218)-682-2325  
[www.deep-portage.org](http://www.deep-portage.org)

### Our Mission:

Through the exploration of woods, water, and wildlife, Deep Portage prepares and inspires learners of all ages to sustain and celebrate our natural world.

### Who Are We:

We are a nonprofit residential environmental education center located on more than 6,000 acres of lakes, bogs, rivers, and woodlands. For nearly fifty years, we have provided extraordinary outdoor experiences for school groups, campers, families, and all who love the great outdoors.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Board Members.....	2
Staff Members.....	2
2023 Summer Camp.....	2
2023 Winter Rendezvous.....	3
50th Anniversary.....	3
Skiing Season.....	3
Welcome President Josh Sweet...	4
Annual Meeting Honorees.....	4
Memorial Trail.....	4
Nature Sightings.....	5

### Social



## Lindsay Bjorklund as Executive Director

I'm delighted and honored to introduce myself as the new Executive Director of Deep Portage Learning Center, a place that has held a special place in my heart for the last 10 years! I started at Deep Portage in fall of 2014. Although I worked several other environmental education and natural resources jobs between then and now, gravity always had a way of pulling me back to Deep Portage.

In 2019, I returned to Deep Portage as the assistant director and gained a deeper knowledge of non-profit management (the pandemic and some major construction projects kept things exciting). I'm extremely grateful for Dale Yerger's advice, guidance, and trust in me during this transition period. Spring of 2021 I earned my M.A. in Educational Leadership; I concluded my master's program with a literature review on the social-emotional impact of residential outdoor environmental education on adolescents. Delving into this research further cemented my belief in how important trips to Deep Portage are to students.

September 2022 officially marked my transition to executive director. The last few months have involved lots of training and onboarding for new staff across all work areas, managing a variety of facilities projects, updating our technology and communication systems, and implementing new online summer camp registration.

Lately, I have been thinking a lot about what makes Deep Portage a truly special place. To me, it's the kindness of people and web of supportive community. We are so fortunate to have hard-working, mission-driven staff, wildly dedicated board members, visiting school teachers that come back year after year, local contractors and businesses that keep us operational, visitors that utilize all Deep Portage has to offer, and of course, amazing students that are at the heart of all we do. I'm proud to be here!





## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President  
Josh Sweet  
Vice President  
Lynne Harrington  
Secretary  
Jack Fitzgerald  
Treasurer  
Jerry Lamon

Jim Ballenthin  
Brendan Grant  
Amanda Herrera-Gundale  
Jared Little  
Norm Moody  
Bruce Steiner  
Jill Sweet  
Sue Toth  
Larry Wolfe  
Melanie Wolfe

## ADVISORY BOARD

Heidi Auel  
Ken Beauchane  
Paul Blomgren  
Charlie Brown  
Daniel Christensen  
Robert Crabb Jr.  
Joe Day  
Kirsten Eggena  
Matthew Forgit  
Merrilee Forgit  
DeeJay Fredrickson  
David Gundale  
Barbara Harrington  
Dorothy Harrington  
Molly Keefe  
Mary Knautz  
Andrea Lambrecht  
Cheryl Lundrigan  
Barb Lyall  
Jamie Madson  
Amy Madson  
Kat Nistler  
Mike North  
Susan North  
Larry Olson  
Linda Olson  
Jan Paulsen  
Rick Pederson  
Ian Reed  
Dr. Henry Roe  
Laura Merrick Roe  
Tom Schafer  
Maureen Skelly Little  
Josh Stevenson  
Cy Struss  
Anna Swarts  
Doug Toth  
Katy Jo Turner  
Susan Wingert

## STAFF 2022-2023

Executive Director  
Lindsay Bjorklund  
Assistant Director  
Neal Tacheny  
Former Executive Director  
Dale Yerger  
Office Manager  
Kathy Braswell  
Education Manager  
Marissa Olsen

Education Staff  
Sophie Bishop  
Kimie Shiozawa  
Matt Fox  
John Roth  
Claire Sponheim  
Sarah Wisniewski  
Bronwyn Earthman  
George Frampton  
Holt Gibson  
Kallan Sandahl  
Alison Kuglin

Food Service Director  
Tamie Fairbanks  
Kitchen/Food Service Staff  
Carol Garnto  
Janine Thaler  
Janna Hagen  
Tamara Zytkovics

Facilities/Grounds  
Jarod Golub  
Dennis Fisher  
Pine River DAC



## 2023 Summer Camp

Deep Portage offers a wide variety of summer camps to suit almost any interest. Whether a child is interested in fishing, hunting, canoeing, or expanding their scientific horizons, we have a camp for them. Campers learn a lot, have fun, make new friends, and grow in their appreciation for all the Minnesota great outdoors has to offer.

### Forkhorn I

Session 1: June 11-June 16  
Session 2: June 18-June 23  
Session 3: July 2-July 7  
Session 4 (ALL GIRLS): August 6-August 11  
\$500 or \$475 for MDHA members  
Ages 11-16

### Forkhorn II

Session 1: July 9-July 14  
\$500 or \$475 for MDHA members  
Ages 12-16  
Prerequisite: MN DNR Firearms Safety Certificate

### Forkhorn III

Session 1: July 23-July 28  
\$550 or \$525 for MDHA members  
Ages 13-16  
Prerequisite: MN DNR Firearms Safety Certificate

### Fishing Camp

July 30-August 2  
\$350  
Ages 10-14

### Upland Bird Camp

July 30-August 4  
\$525  
Ages 12-16

### Izaak Walton League Family Camp

August 13-August 18  
\$500 per individual, \$900 for duo, or \$1700 for group of 4  
Ages 9 and up

Click the link below to register now!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

For more information about Deep Portage's summer camps go to [deep-portage.org](http://deep-portage.org) or call Deep Portage at 218-682-2325. All camps require a non-refundable \$100 deposit.





# Upcoming Events

## 2023 Winter Rendezvous

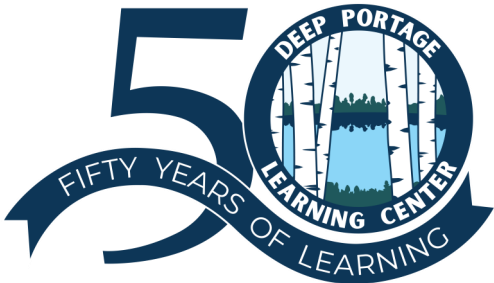
The [44th Annual Winter Rendezvous](#) Event will be held **January 21st, 2023** at Deep Portage Learning Center. You'll get the opportunity to participate in 15 awesome activities. For each activity you attend you will get a score which will be totaled into a final score. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners for each age group will be announced during our award ceremony. The timeframe for the whole event will be from **10am-2pm**. Register at the sign-up booth when you arrive. \$5 to attend the activities and \$5 for lunch which will be from 12pm-1pm.

- Archery
- Snow Snakes
- Birding
- Axe Throw
- Ice Fishing
- Snowshoe Relay
- Atlatl Throw
- Orienteering
- Cross-cut Saw
- Trap Shoot
- Wildlife Quiz
- Rabbit Sticks
- Cat-and-Mouse
- Northwoods Curling
- Johnny Cakes



## Deep Portage 50th Anniversary

Next year will mark fifty years since Deep Portage began. We're throwing a party to celebrate and we'd love to see you there. Over the past fifty years, each of you has helped make Deep portage a very special place. We want to thank you for your help and welcome you back to this place we all love. We can't wait to celebrate all that we've accomplished together and to share more about what's ahead.



**When:** Earth Day (April 22nd, 2023)

**Where:** Deep Portage Learning Center

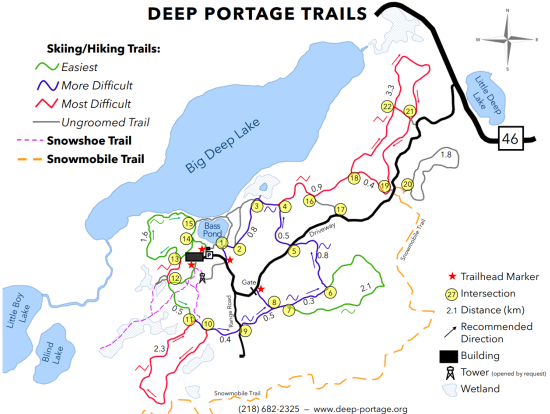
**What:** A 50th anniversary extravaganza with food, live music, games, and lots of outdoor adventure

**We hope to see you there!**

## Deep Portage Skiing Trails

Nearly 20 km of ski trails are groomed for classic skiing at Deep Portage. The trails wind through beautiful hills sculpted by glaciers which are home to old pines, hardwood forests, and new growth. Trails vary from beginner to expert level. Depending on ice conditions, there might be skiing on Big Deep Lake. No ski pass is required. Trail map is on the right.

Skiing apps that are updated with our skiing conditions are [Skiynyki](#) and [Skiwise](#).





# Recent Happenings

## Welcome New President Josh Sweet

Please welcome Josh Sweet as the new President and Chairman of the Deep Portage Board of Directors. Josh was elected at the Annual Meeting held October 29, 2022.

Josh was a staff member from 2011-2013, a lay volunteer until he joined the Board in 2018, elected Vice President in 2021, and served as the Chair of the Program and Communications Committee for the past year. He earned a degree in Parks and Recreation Management from Arizona State University, has previously worked with the National Park Service and the Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter, and is currently employed at the Lowry Nature Center of Three Rivers Park District.



Josh is looking forward to continuing to contribute to the organization in his new role, and is honored to carry the Deep Portage torch.



## Board and Staff Honored at Annual Meeting

The Deep Portage Annual meeting was held Saturday October 29, 2022. Once again we relied on the wonders of technology to offer both in-person and virtual meeting attendance. In addition to receiving staff and committee updates, staff and board members were recognized for outstanding service at Deep Portage.



- *Top Picture* – **Kathy Braswell** (Administrative Coordinator since 2004) Pictured with Jim Ballenthin
- *Left in Bottom Picture* – **Jack Fitzgerald** (Board Member since 2008)
- *Right in Bottom Picture* – **Dorothy Harrington** (Helped the development of Deep Portage since the 1960s and a Board Member since the 1990s)
- *Not pictured* – **Todd Josephson** (Board Member since 2003)
- *Not pictured* – **Norm Moody** (Board Member since 1992)

## Memorial Trail

Lace up your hiking boots or strap on the snowshoes for Deep Portage’s newest trail. This 1-mile loop will bring you through the newly designated Fay Harrington Izaak Walton League Memorial Pine Stand. Your adventure into this forest stand will pass you by cathedral pines, gentle rolling hills, numerous wildlife, and a peaceful meadow at the north end scenic overlook.



This new 18.9 acre stand was officially designated by Cass County in December 2021 with a larger north section added to the already previously set aside site on the south side of the driveway. The Cass County Izaak Walton League of America was vital in proposing this area by officially designated due to its unique value to the Deep Portage landscape. Besides the trail, this stand will serve as an outdoor classroom to promote many things such as forest ecosystems, a forest’s role in mitigating

climate change, using a forest as a renewable resource, different styles of forest management, and the contributions of timber harvesting in the working forests of Deep Portage to Cass County’s annual budget.

The south section of the area had a pine stand thinning in the fall of 2020 while the north section, which has not been harvested in some time, is a newly designated forest preserve to enhance its old growth features. There is a parking lot at the start of the south section on Nature Center Drive.





# Nature Sightings

## Bird Sightings



**White-throated Sparrow**

Fun Fact: These sparrows sometimes mate with Dark-eyed Juncos creating a hybrid.



**Red-breasted Nuthatch**

Fun Fact: These birds put pine resin around their nesting hole to deter predators and competitors



**Purple Finch**

Fun Fact: These finches use their large beaks and tongues to extract seeds



**Pileated Woodpecker**

Fun Fact: The holes dug out by these woodpeckers are shaped like squares



**Bohemian Waxwing**

Fun Fact: The yellow and red pigment on their wings and tail comes from their diet of fruit



## River Otter

The largest aquatic carnivore, the river otter, can be found in northern Minnesota bodies of water. The river otter, pictured to the left, was found swimming and eating in Bass Pond at Deep Portage. It was diving down and grabbing fish to consume up on our dock on the pond. Keep an eye out for these creatures swimming in water or sliding around in the snow. They also leave very distinctive tracks with 5 toes on each foot and the hind feet have webs between for better swimming.





# DEEP PORTAGE

## Learning Center

2197 Nature Center Dr. NW  
Hackensack, MN 56452  
(218)-682-2325  
[www.deep-portage.org](http://www.deep-portage.org)  
[portage@uslink.net](mailto:portage@uslink.net)

