



DEEP PORTAGE

Learning Center

Fall 2024

Deep Portage Learning Center

2197 Nature Center Dr. NW

Hackensack, MN 56452

Phone: (218)-682-2325

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.

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Social



2024 Summer Camp Recap

As the leaves begin changing color, it signals the approach of fall and the end of the summer season. This summer was a blast at our summer camps! We welcomed over 240 campers through our Deep Portage summer camps and continued our partnership with FFA, hosting three weeks of their campers as well.

Our Forkhorn campers learned firearm safety skills and broadened their range of hunter knowledge. Fishing Camp this year set numerous records for size and number of fish caught - a very successful week!

Upland Bird campers honed their skills on our sporting clay course and learned hands on techniques for dog training. We hope to see many campers return next year!

This summer, our staff represented 5 different countries;

Ireland, Jamaica, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States. They shared the culture of their home counties (and states) with campers and learned a lot in return. It's great seeing the way they connect with campers each week and grow as young professionals over the course of the summer.

We are already looking forward to next summer and the possibility of offering some new camp experiences. Keep an eye out for Summer 2025 registration in January!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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2024-2025 STAFF

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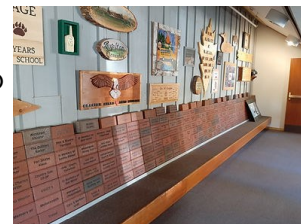
DONATE TO DEEP PORTAGE

There are a few ways you can help support Deep Portage by donating. Please take a look at the different ways below. Your contribution goes towards educating kids about the environment and other programs in environmental education, resources management, conservation, recreation, and community services.

Deep Portage Learning Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and donations are tax-deductible.

“BRICK BY BRICK” DONATION

Make a \$100 gift and a personalized, engraved brick will be displayed at Deep Portage as a reminder of your support of our environmental education programs.



\$50 MUG DONATION



Each year Deep Portage puts out a new mug with the year and a critter you might find at Deep Portage. The 2024 mug features a Water Scorpion, artwork by Sophie Bishop. Water scorpions are large macroinvertebrates that we find in Bass Pond with students.

MATCHING GIFTS

Double your impact! Does your employer match gifts? View a list of Minnesota companies that have matching gift programs [here](#).

IRA GIVING

If you are the age of 70 1/2 or older, you can make a Qualified Charitable Distributions annually from your IRA account. You can donate up to \$105,000 total to one or more non-profits each year. This will avoid income taxes on the funds you give directly to Deep Portage.

STOCKS, BONDS, MUTUAL FUNDS

You can gift stocks, bonds, or mutual fund shares to a non-profit while avoiding the capital gains taxes. You can also receive a federal income tax deduction for the current value of the gift.

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

Make charitable gifts over time by creating a donor-advised fund. In most cases, you can earn a tax deduction. These are offered at investment firms and community foundations such as St. Paul and Minnesota Foundation.

"Meet Us in the Forest"

2024 Deep Portage Summer Rendezvous

On Saturday, August 17th, about 70 people came to Deep Portage for our 1st annual Deep Portage Summer Rendezvous. The evening kicked off with social hour which included the opportunity to buy raffle tickets for our 37 raffle prizes and to bid on silent auction items in which there were 33 items to bid on. While folks mingled and looked at the great items that were donated for this event, they enjoyed some delicious appetizers including smoked prairie chicken that was donated by a board member.

Our MC of the night was Bridgett Seegers and she welcomed everybody emphasizing the gratitude we had for everyone who came and donated to make this event a success. There were board members, community members, past staff members, and Deep Portage appreciators that made up the folks in the dining hall and spoke over an amazing meal that was cooked by the Deep Portage kitchen staff. The dinner was a different mix of pastas, homemade bread, fresh salad, fruit salad, mixed vegetables and green beans, and your choice of dessert. The kitchen knocked it out of the park with the meal.

With the event coming to an end, the silent auction was closed and the raffle winners were chosen live after dinner. There was a lot of cheering for when you won the prize and a lot of sighs when your number wasn't called out for items you dropped a ticket in for. Overall, the first year for this newly annual event was an achievement and we reached our fundraising goal.

We want to thank all the sponsors and people, organizations, and businesses that donated for our raffle and silent auction. Thank you to all the volunteers that helped plan, decorate/set-up, and cleaned up after the banquet. We hope to see more people at Summer Rendezvous in the following years. The tentative date for next year is **Saturday, August 16th, 2025**, so mark your calendars and we will see you there!



2025 Critter Mug Art Contest

We are now taking submissions for the 2025 Deep Portage Annual Critter Mug artwork contest!

Each year Deep Portage puts out a special mug available for those who donate \$75 to support our organization. This year, you could be the one to create an image that will be on the 2025 mug!

Contest Guidelines:

- Submissions due: **Friday, October 18th, 2024**
- Winners chosen on Friday, November 1st, 2024
- Artwork should be 1 color
- Size printed on the mug is about 2"x2"
- We have a few suggestions of critters, but you are free to come up with any critter you would like to draw as long it hasn't been done in the past and the species can be found at Deep Portage
- Email digital files to office@deepportage.org or mail paper submissions to 2197 Nature Center Drive NW, Hackensack, MN 56452
- Winner receives a free mug and t-shirt!



Past Critter Mugs

Year	Animal	Year	Animal	Year	Animal
1980	Mallard w/ 4 Ducklings	1995	White-tailed Deer (Fawn)	2010	Painted Turtle
1981	Mallard w/ 4 Ducklings	1996	Great Horned Owl	2011	Great Horned Owl
1982	Ruffed Grouse	1997	Male Wood Duck	2012	Osprey
1983	Beaver	1998	Pileated Woodpecker	2013	Dragonfly
1984	Great Blue Heron	1999	Canada Goose w/ 3 Goslings	2014	Black-and-white Warbler
1985	Red Fox	2000	Gray Wolf	2015	Hooded Merganser
1986	Hairy Woodpecker	2001	Ruffed Grouse	2016	Common Loon
1987	Skunk w/ Ladyslipper	2002	Northern Pike	2017	Wood Frog
1988	Bald Eagle	2003	River Otter	2018	Bees w/ Honeycomb
1989	Black Bear	2004	Largemouth Bass	2019	Tiger Salamander
1990	Mallard	2005	Black-capped Chickadee	2020	Black Bear
1991	Raccoons	2006	Bluegill	2021	Wild Turkey
1992	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	2007	Flying Squirrel	2022	Flying Squirrel
1993	White-tailed Deer (Buck)	2008	House Wren	2023	Trumpeter Swan
1994	Bobcat	2009	Porcupine	2024	Water Scorpion



Future Critter Ideas

American Woodcock	Fisher	Ermine/Least Weasel
Bat (Big Brown or Little Brown)	Garter Snake	Species of moth
Species of butterfly	Sora	Eastern Cottontail
Belted Kingfisher	Coyote	Snapping Turtle



Fall Flowers

Native Flowers Blooming in September



SMOOTH BLUE ASTER



WHITE HEATH ASTER

Going into fall, not only do we have the beautiful colors that will eventually come from the leaves changing, but many native flowers will be in bloom during this time as well. Some of the flowers you can see in bloom around Deep Portage are the smooth blue aster, white heath aster, black-eyed Susan, stiff goldenrod, field goldenrod, showy goldenrod, blazing star, hoary vervain, and anise hyssop. These flowers can be seen all around our driveway and the main building.

Below is some information about some of the late blooming plants and take a look at the pictures for identification.

Asters are a key native plant for many pollinating insects such as bees. Before these insects hibernate for the winter, they need to build up their fat storage to be able to survive the season. Asters are ones that will bloom much longer going into fall and give these pollinators fuel. The two main asters seen at Deep Portage are the

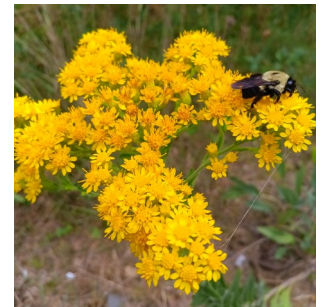
smooth blue aster and the white heath aster. Smooth blue aster has blue to violet flowers with smooth leaves and stems. White heath aster have flowers that bloom in a cluster which are tightly packed on top.

Other later blooming plants that also help with pollinators are goldenrods. Goldenrods have many yellow flowers growing in a cluster on top of the stalk. Field goldenrod, compared to other goldenrods, are ones that don't grow very tall with it reaching about 2 feet at most. Stiff goldenrod and showy goldenrod are closer in height to other goldenrods with it possibly growing close to 5 feet tall. All three of these goldenrods are very abundant around the main building at Deep Portage.

All of these flowers are stunning and a great part of starting autumn. Stop by soon to check them out before they stop blooming and produce their seeds.



FIELD GOLDENROD



STIFF GOLDENROD



SHOWY GOLDENROD



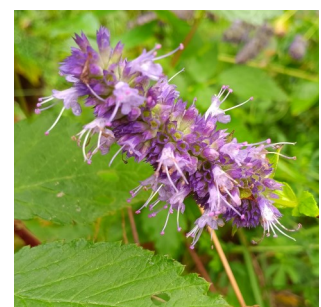
BLACK-EYED SUSAN



BLAZING STAR



HOARY VERVAIN



ANISE HYSSOP