



Spring 2023

**Deep Portage Learning Center**

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 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:**

- 50th Anniversary.....1
- Board of Directors.....2
- Staff Members.....2
- Kid Thank You Shoutout.....2
- Nature Quiz.....2
- Back-to-Hack Win.....2
- 2023 Summer Camp.....3
- Birding Big Day.....4
- Sporting Clays Fun Shoot.....4
- 44th Annual Rendezvous Recap... 5
- Office Manager Transition.....5
- New Donor Structure.....5
- Nature in Spring.....6



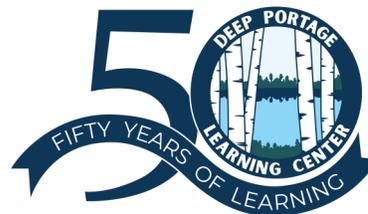
**Deep Portage’s 50th Anniversary**

Deep Portage is turning 50! Celebrate with us on Earth Day, **Saturday, April 22 11am-6pm** with outdoor activities for all ages, delicious food, raffle prizes, and live music featuring The Soul Shack. Join old and new friends as we invite former and current Board members, staff members, students, campers, supporters, volunteers, and our local community for a fun-filled day at Deep Portage Learning Center as a celebrate our first 50 years and look forward to our next 50 years. As our Dr. Bill once said, “our best days are still ahead of us!”

Activity stations around the campus will be open from 11am until 2:30pm. The Soul Shack will then take the stage and play some of our favorite tunes from yesterday and today with incredible vocals, guitar, drums, keyboard, and horn section until 6pm. Please contact [info@deepportage.org](mailto:info@deepportage.org) for more information.

The event is open to all ages. No cover charge. Free will donations in honor of our 50th Anniversary will graciously be accepted. We look forward to seeing everyone this April!

Preregister for the event by clicking [here!](#)



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President  
*Josh Sweet*  
Vice President  
*Lynne Harrington*  
Secretary  
*Jack Fitzgerald*  
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*Jerry Lamont*

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*Brendan Grant*  
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*Jared Little*  
*Norm Moody*  
*Bruce Steiner*  
*Jill Sweet*  
*Sue Toth*  
*Larry Wolfe*  
*Melanie Wolfe*

## STAFF 2022-2023

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

Education Staff  
*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*  
*Pine River DAC*

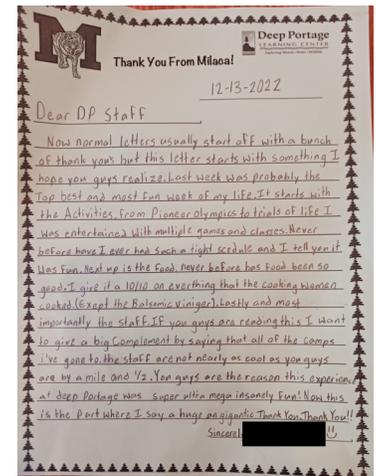
Wood Heating Staff  
*David Vankrevelen*  
*Connor Meis*

## Kid Thank You Shoutout

"Dear DP Staff,

Now normal letters usually start off with a bunch of thank yous but this letter starts with something I hope you guys realize. Last week was probably the top best and most fun week of my life. It starts with the activities, from pioneer Olympics to trials of life. I was entertained with multiple games and classes. Never before have I ever had such a tight schedule and I tell you it was fun. Next up is the food, never before has food been so good. I give it a 10/10 on everything that the cooking women cooked (except the balsamic vinegar). Lastly and most importantly the staff. If you guys are reading this I want to give a big complement by saying that all of the camps I've gone to that staff are not nearly as cool as you guys are by a mile and 1/2. You guys are the reason this experience at Deep Portage was super ultra mega insanely fun! Now this is the part where I say a huge and gigantic thank you. Thank You!!

Sincerely, Milaca Student"



## Nature Quiz

1. What is a lake called that is made from a chunk of a glacier that melted?
2. How many beats per minute can a little brown bat flap their wings?
3. What part of the fish makes it buoyant?
4. What type of star is our sun?
5. How much does a black bear cub weigh at birth?

## Back-to-Hack Win

During the Back-to-Hack day on January 14, 2023, folks from near and far enjoyed all the festivities the event had to offer. One of the activities was Ice Golf, a wintry twist on the classic game. Our very own educator, Bronwyn Earthman, hit the golf ball in for a hole-in-one which has never been seen in the history of Back-to-Hack! Her fame and glory persisted for weeks within the community. When asked what contributed to her success that historic day, she said "What? I don't know, it just happened!" (She's not at all embarrassed about all the attention).



## 2023 Summer Camps

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.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Forkhorn I</u></b>  <b>Session 1: June 11-June 16</b>  <b>Session 2: June 18-June 23</b>  <b>Session 3: July 2-July 7</b>  <b>Session 4 (ALL GIRLS): August 6-August 11</b>  <b>\$500 or \$475 for MDHA members</b>  <b>Ages 11-16</b></p> <p>Successful completion of this camp earns students their MN DNR Firearms Safety Certificate. By learning in a cooperative classroom, doing hands-on activities outside, and plenty of practice at our rifle range, you can be assured that your camper will come away with a high level of firearms safety, responsible hunting practices, and wildlife ecology skills. Although they will be busy with firearms safety training, campers will also have plenty of time for recreational and outdoor skills classes such as canoeing, fishing, survival, orienteering, rock climbing, and much more.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Fishing Camp</u></b>  <b>July 30-August 2</b>  <b>\$350</b>  <b>Ages 10-14</b></p> <p>Fishing camp provides a fun learning atmosphere where campers not only get to fish their hearts out, but also learn important lake limnology, water ecosystems, and fisheries management skills to make them better anglers and water stewards. Campers will be using Big Deep Lake, Bass Pond, Boy River, and Little Boy Lake as their fishing grounds and classroom. <b>Bring your fishing gear</b> and be prepared to catch a few big ones!</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Forkhorn II</u></b>  <b>Session: July 9-July 14</b>  <b>\$500 or \$475 for MDHA members</b>  <b>Ages 12-16</b>  <b>Prerequisite: MN DNR Firearms Safety Certificate</b></p> <p>Students will be certified in the Minnesota Bowhunter Education Program (MBEP) as part of the camp; this certification is required in to purchase archery hunting tags in many states, provinces, or special designated archery hunting areas in MN. Sponsored by the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, this advanced hunting camp takes students beyond the basic white-tailed deer hunting and offers higher level training in bow hunting such as shooting out of deer stands and walking a 3D archery target course. Additionally, they will learn advanced map and compass skills, high caliber rifle and muzzleloader training, and ethical hunting practices. Campers will go on a day long canoe trip down the Boy River, up and over beaver dams to the remote Little Boy Lake to fish and have a campsite lunch.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Upland Bird Camp</u></b>  <b>July 30-August 4</b>  <b>\$525</b>  <b>Ages 12-16</b></p> <p>Upland Bird camp offers campers the opportunity to learn the basics of hunting upland game birds and improve their wing shooting skills. Classes cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upland bird biology from trained biologists</li> <li>• Daily wing shooting instruction on our 10 station sporting clay pigeon course</li> <li>• Dog training techniques</li> <li>• Ethical hunting techniques</li> <li>• Campers participate in an activity to learn how to respectfully gain permission on private lands</li> </ul> <p>This is a great way to meet friends and learn about birds, dogs, and bird hunting. Each camper can expect to go about a case of shells by the end of camp on the shooting course.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Forkhorn III</u></b>  <b>Session: July 23-July 28</b>  <b>\$500 or \$475 for MDHA members</b>  <b>Ages 12-16</b>  <b>Prerequisite: MN DNR Firearms Safety Certificate</b></p> <p>This improved Forkhorn 3 camp no longer has an Advanced Hunters Education certification. Instead, it will focus on advancing on the outdoor and conservation skills learned in Forkhorn 1 and Forkhorn 2. Campers will be doing advanced land navigation course with higher level survival techniques, rifle ammunition basics, muzzleloading, and shotgun wing shooting at our sporting clays course. We will be featuring special theme days at camp such as turkey, waterfowl, small game, and big game days where campers will learn more in depth information about the wildlife they can pursue and how to become more successful. Campers will go home with their own turkey and duck calls! This camp will also feature an overnight tent camping experience on DP property.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Izaak Walton League Family Camp</u></b>  <b>August 13-August 18</b>  <b>\$500 per individual, \$900 for duo, or \$1700 for group of 4</b>  <b>Ages 9 and up</b></p> <p>Sponsored by the <a href="http://www.izaaqwaltonleague.org">Izaak Walton League of America</a>, this summer camp does a little bit of everything. This is a family friendly camp; all family members and friends are welcome.</p> <p>Activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fishing (fly fishing as well)</li> <li>- Canoe trip up the Boy River</li> <li>- Archery</li> <li>- .22 caliber rifle shooting</li> <li>- Climbing wall</li> <li>- Wilderness survival</li> <li>- Orienteering</li> <li>- Wildlife ecosystems</li> <li>- Renewable energy systems</li> <li>- Bog walk</li> <li>- TEAM challenges</li> <li>- Campfire cookout dinner</li> <li>- Arts and crafts</li> <li>- Brick fired pizza dinner night</li> </ul> <p>This camp emphasizes natural resource conservation and sustainability and is a terrific camp to meet new friends and hang out with family!</p>

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.

REGISTER HERE

# Upcoming Events

## Gearing up for the Big Day in Cass County

Ready, set, bird! Planning is underway for the Annual Deep Portage Birding Day in Cass County. Each year, volunteers and staff members set out to record 100 or more bird species in a single day without leaving the county lines. The Cass County Big Day contributes to citizen science as our data is submitted to the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology via eBird and will help with tracking global migration patterns. This year the event will begin at Deep Portage at sunrise on Saturday May 20, 2023 and will conclude that evening while listening for nocturnal bird songs before midnight.

This is also the second year in a row that the event is being held as a fundraiser to support Deep Portage. Last year the team tallied 128 species, generating a grand total of nearly \$3000! Highlights from last year included an extensive variety of warblers around Bass Pond, Ruddy Turnstones and a Sanderling on the beaches at Leech Lake, meadowlarks and magpies in southern Cass County, and an unbelievable showing of the woodcock sky dance at dusk.

Cass County has proven to be a formidable location for such a birding challenge, but we need YOUR help to make the day even more successful than last year! In the coming weeks, we will begin accepting pledge submissions from Deep Portage supporters. Examples of previous pledges include simple general contributions, a dollar amount per species, and/or a set dollar amount for accomplishing a goal during the event chosen by the donor. Live updates will be made throughout the day on our social media channels. Stay tuned ([click here](#)) for more information on how to submit your pledge for the 2023 Big Day on May 20!



## Sporting Clays Fun Shoot

Join us on Saturday, May 6th, 2023 for our annual shooting event. Registration information is posted on our website ([click here](#)), preregistration is required. There will also be a silent auction being held at the shooting range.



- **Date:** Saturday, May 6th, 2023
- **Time:** 9am: sign-in and squad assignments (coffee and muffins provided) and 10am: shooting begins (shotgun start)
- **Where:** Deep Portage Learning Center (sign-in at the shooting range)
- **Information:** \$75/person, 2 rounds of 50 targets, lunch is provided in between rounds

**We hope to see you there!**

# Recent Happenings

## 44th Annual Rendezvous Recap

The 44th Annual Winter Rendezvous Event was held on January 21st, 2023 on a beautiful, balmy Saturday. People from near and far got to test their skills with 15 different activities ranging from historic to modern. Participants threw atlatls, a paleolithic spear-throwing device, tried their hand at snowsnakes, an indigenous winter sport originating in the Great Lakes region, and experienced Northwoods curling, the not-quite-Olympic version using wooden stumps sliding across the lake ice. In whole, we had a great turnout with about 150 participants. At the end of the day, we all gathered for the awards ceremony where we celebrated those who were at the top of their age classes. Mrs. Minnesota International, Kirin Christianson, made a special visit and helped tally votes and hand out awards. It was great to see everyone come together and have fun in the Northwoods! See you for the 45th Winter Rendezvous in January 2024.



## Office Manager Transition

**Long-time staff member Kathy Braswell retiring in May!** Kathy

Braswell, our truly extraordinary Office Manager, will be retiring at the end of May after nearly 20 years of employment at Deep Portage. Kathy's work over the years has been invaluable. She has been a steady presence that has kept all facets of Deep Portage operations organized and accurate. When asked about the most enjoyable part of her job, Kathy said it was the people—the pleasant staff and the grateful school groups and visitors. In retirement, she is looking forward to spending more time with her out-of-town kids, grandkids, and family. Be sure to thank and congratulate Kathy this spring and wish her well on her next chapter.

Sophie Bishop has been working alongside Kathy since January and will transition to the Office Manager this June. Sophie comes with great experience in nature center office administration, publication creation, and renewable energy education. She is already hard at work creating the newsletters, brochures, and managing summer camp registration. Please give Sophie a warm welcome next time you are at Deep Portage.



## New Donor Structure on the Horizon

Regardless of the dollar amount, Deep Portage wants to encourage its many supporters to contribute when they can in an amount that they feel comfortable giving. In order to ensure that all our donors feel welcome and appreciated, the Development Committee will be moving away from titling different donation tiers such as "Patron", "Benefactor", and so on. Every dollar donated makes a difference in the lives of the students that we teach, and we do not want to limit your choices when it comes to contributing to the Deep portage mission and vision. Our commemorative mugs with unique wildlife designs to signify each year at Deep Portage will continue and will be made available as an add-on purchase with your donation. Look for these changes to be outlined in our upcoming brochures, online, and in our support letters mailed directly to you. As always, please feel free to let a Board or staff member know if you have any questions as we would be happy to answer them.



# Nature in Spring

## **Spring Ephemerals** by: John Roth (Educator)

Ready to spring into the new season? As February comes to an end, some people might begin planning their spring endeavors. Despite winter being undecided to end in March or May, there is one group of organisms ready, lying in wait, ready to pounce out of the ground! That would be our spring ephemerals. Spring ephemerals aren't the warblers first arriving from their winter grounds, nor the salamanders and frogs departing their muddy winter beds. They are the first flowers, woodland perennials which develop their aerial structures like the leaves, stems, and flowers, before any other plants. So why the rush to bloom so soon? Well, let's imagine where they live. Small little flowers in the woods would quickly get blocked by the sun from the larger trees and shrubs that will leaf out in the weeks to come. For ephemerals, it's all about a race to light before their larger neighbors catch up. Once they have bloomed, pollinated, and seeded, most parts of their above ground structures will soon wither and be left with their underground shoots, bulbs, and rhizomes. During their golden hour, these flowers bring the first colors of spring, peppering the forest floor with splashes of purple and blues from our Round-lobed Hepaticas and violets to sparkles of white from our Bloodroots, Trilliums, and Wood anemones. Flashes of yellow can be seen from the Large-flowered and Sessile bellwort. Let's not forget ones who are more subtle, huddling their maroon flowers close to the soil, the Canadian wild ginger. Once the snow melts, Deep Portage's trails are full of these wonderful little ephemerals that are enjoyed by the wildlife and those who come to visit. No matter where you go this spring, take the time to look to the earth and discover what colorful surprises lie in wait in your own backyards.



**Common Blue Violet**



**Round-lobed Hepatica**



**Bloodroot**



**Large-flowered Trillium**



**Wood Anemone**



**Large-flowered Bellwort**



**Sessile Bellwort**

## **Nature Quiz Answers**

1. Kettle Lake
2. 12 wing beats/minute
3. Swim bladder
4. Yellow dwarf
5. 8 ounces



**Canadian Wild Ginger**