

Wild about Winter Ecology

A Wisconsin Master Naturalist Advanced Training

January 25-27, 2018	at the historic Forest Lodge Estate on the shore of Lake Namakagon
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General Description: Graduates of the Wisconsin Master Naturalist program are invited to spend a cozy winter weekend at Forest Lodge learning about nature in winter with Master Naturalist Instructor Emily Stone. The training begins at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday. Wildlife ecologists Sarah Boles and Adrian Wydeven will present an indoor and outdoor workshop on animal tracking. We'll spend an afternoon with retired fish biologist Dave Neuswanger investigating Lake Namakagon through the ice, dissecting fish, and examining plankton. Our final morning will focus on the ecology of Fairyland State Natural Area with natural resources professor Jon Martin. Enjoy evenings listening to guest speakers and socializing in front of the fireplace. All meals are included. Registration cost is \$200 with lodging at the historic Gatehouse, and \$135 for commuters. Register online at www.cablemuseum.org by January 15. This workshop provides 16 hours of Master Naturalist Advanced Training!

Thursday, January 25	
12:30 - 1:00 p.m.	You're welcome to arrive a little early and eat your own lunch at the Gatehouse if that makes your travels easier.
1:00 - 1:30 p.m.	Arrival, Registration, and Check in
1:30 - 2:00 p.m.	Welcome, icebreakers, tour
2:30 - 5:30 p.m.	Indoor workshop on the basic skills of animal tracking with wildlife ecologists Sarah Boles and Adrian Wydeven
6:00 p.m.	Dinner in the Gatehouse
7:00 p.m.	Evening presentation on climate change and Antarctica by St. Olaf College professor Bob Jacobel
8:00 p.m.	Night Hike with Naturalist Emily Stone (optional) – dress warmly to explore the magical world of a winter night. Learn more about your own senses, as well as the adaptations of nocturnal animals.
9:00 p.m.	Social time. Relax by the fireplace with your new friends. Bring your own favorite beverages.
10:00 p.m.	Quiet time (this can start earlier if everyone is tired!)

Friday, January 26

7:00 a.m.	Yoga (optional) Bring your own mat, and join others in an informal practice to get you limbered up for the day!
7:38 a.m.	Sunrise
8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00 a.m.	Outdoor Tracking Workshop with wildlife ecologists Sarah Boles and Adrian Wydeven. Participants will carpool to areas within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in search of animal tracks such as: wolf, coyote, fox, fisher, bobcat, elk, and deer. Depending on the snow depth and location of tracks, tracking may be done on snowshoes over uneven terrain. Let Emily know if you'd like to borrow snowshoes from the Museum. Dress for the weather and bring water. We'll provide snacks.
12:00 p.m.	Lunch back at the Gatehouse
1:30 - 5:30 p.m.	Winter Limnology (lake studies) with retired fish biologist Dave Neuswanger.
	1:30 p.m. -- Indoor Introduction, then go outdoors to drill a hole in the ice to investigate the lake's winter oxygen and temperature profiles.
	2:30 p.m. -- Discuss winter fish behavior and movement. Dissect fish to investigate winter egg development.
	3:30 p.m. -- Climate Change and Lakes: slide talk and discussion
	4:30 p.m. -- Zooplankton: what are they and why are they important? Collect plankton from our ice hole and then examine them up-close with our new digital microscope.
5:07 p.m.	sunset
6:00 p.m.	Dinner
7:00 p.m.	Evening discussion with Dr. Randy Lehr, co-director of the Center for Freshwater Innovation about current research and issues
8:00 p.m.	Social hour: BYOB

Saturday, January 27

7:00 a.m.	Yoga (optional) Bring your own mat, and join others in an informal practice to get you limbered up for the day!
8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Forestry in Fairyland with Dr. Jon Martin, Assistant Professor of Natural Resources at Northland College.
	9:00 a.m. -- Indoor introduction and slides about Martin's research into tree canopy diversity and lichens.
	10:00 a.m. -- Snowshoe hike into Fairyland State Natural Area to visit Martin's research sites and talk about forest ecology.
	11:30 a.m. -- Bring lichens and other specimens indoors to explore using our new digital microscopes.
12:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Wrap-Up discussion
1:30 p.m.	Farewell!

Accommodations	The Gatehouse at Forest Lodge provides rustic, dorm-style accommodations. Each participant will have a bottom bunk in a shared room, with a shared bathroom down the hall. No linens or toiletries are provided. Bring your own sleeping bag or blankets, towel, soap, etc.
Roommates	Please make a note on your registration form if there is someone in particular you'd like to share a room with.
Commuters	Local folks, or those who would like to make their own arrangements, are welcome to attend the workshop and pay a reduced commuter price. All your meals will still be provided, and we encourage you to spend at least a little time in the evening socializing with your classmates.
Special Diets	Your hosts will be cooking all of food on-site. We can accommodate almost any special diet if you just give us the details well ahead of time!