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Registration form, itinerary now available for 4th Annual Birding Festival May 16-17 at North Lakeland Discovery Center

Manitowish Waters, WI – Birding enthusiasts can now download the registration form and detailed itinerary on-line at www.discoverycenter.net/events.htm for the 4th Annual Birding Festival, to be held May 16-17 at the Discovery Center in Manitowish Waters.

In partnership with the Manitowish Waters Chamber of Commerce, the Discovery Center's Bird Club will kick-off the event with a Friday evening welcome reception, May 16 at 5:30 p.m. All event sponsors, participants, and presenters are invited to this reception at the Discovery Center's main lodge. This gathering will feature complimentary appetizers and beverages and a program by special guest speakers **John Bates**, local naturalist and author, and **Mary Burns**, area Northwoods artist and author.

This year's keynote speaker will be Joan Garland, Education Outreach Coordinator at the International Crane Foundation. Her program will focus on the Whooping Crane Reintroduction Project and her role in monitoring the journey of these elegant birds. Ms. Garland will also be sharing her 'Cranes of the World' program during the Saturday afternoon workshops.

Seven field trips, from forest to wetland habitat hikes and from canoe paddles to pontoon cruises, highlight the morning and afternoon hours. Registrants are encouraged to sign up early to assure their desired field trip. Also requiring sign-up, but with room for all, are the 6 a.m. Sunrise Warbler Walks and Bird Banding Demonstrations.

Organizations including the Raptor Education Group, Inc., the North Lakeland Discovery Center and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provide field trip leaders, bird banding demos, presentations, live raptors, and several bird workshops! A celebration of birds and nature will be central to the day's events, and will be coupled with a fabulous breakfast bar, a boxed lunch of participant's choice, and a hearty selection of fruits, snacks and homemade desserts.

The Discovery Center Bird Club invites you to mark your calendars for May 16 and 17. State and local sponsors provide invaluable support and offer coupons, promotional items, and wonderful deals – all packaged in a handy canvas tote bag, free to early registrants. Early registration fees prior to May 9th are \$40 for non-Discovery Center members; \$35 for Discovery Center members; and \$20 for University students and youth under 18.

Join in the festival fun and experience the Northwoods' beautiful natural settings, friendly hospitality, and excellent birding. The Birding Festival registration form and itinerary are also available at the Discovery Center and the Manitowish Waters Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact the Center at 715-543-2085 or www.discoverycenter.net/events.htm. The Discovery Center is located on CTH W across from Rest Lake Park just 1.2 miles from USH 51.

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