

resentation of nature’s adaptability as if the winds of time were sped up exponentially. The waterbody, while only 100 years old today, has gone from forest to flowage, from nearly un-boatable due to stump fields to a highly valued fishing and recreation area (albeit there are still significant hazards). Lakes formed 10,000 years ago have shorelines that have eroded naturally over thousands of years, but the TFF’s shores have not yet found their angle of repose, so erosion is exacerbated at many sites.

TFF Ranger Jack Miller shared, “Exploring more of the shallow water bays and inlets that we have never really ventured into was an epic experience. The survey renewed my appreciation to work in such an incredible place.” Our youngest observer shared his perspective as a new high school grad,

and nest platform construction they outnumbered eagles with 22 pairs at one point; a trend that has since reversed as bald eagles rebounded, competing for nesting sites. Now only four osprey pairs nest on the TFF. Trumpeter swans, once endangered in Wisconsin, have become so successful that biologists worry they may potentially impact wild rice beds. Before the 1980’s the TFF supported four great blue heron rookeries, but their populations were greatly reduced by eustrongylidiasis, a parasitic disease caused by a nematode; birds ingest worms by eating infected fish. Today, no rookeries are present. While some species vary wildly in their presence, others like common loons and endangered black terns remain stable on TFF with about 30 nesting pairs of loons and about 20 pairs of terns.



The Turtle Flambeau Scenic Waters Area has a special wilderness character and abundant wildlife. Photo by Diane Daulton.

stating, “First, I’d like to say I had an amazing time on the survey. Before going on the trip, I really had no idea what to expect, as it was my first time doing anything remotely like this.” He described his favorite part of the adventure as, “Listening to the conversations people were having; they were so passionate about the environment and different aspects of it.” Asked about a young person’s perspective he suggested, “I think nature is the sort of thing people (of all ages) intrinsically enjoy.”

The importance of science and monitoring for the long-term cannot be understated. Most folks don’t know that greater Canada geese were extirpated in Wisconsin in 1955. Imagine...not a single goose statewide! Of the 6-8 osprey identified on the TFF by Olson in 1979, thanks to the ban on DDT

After sharing stories, highlights, and campfire lunch the boats departed from the group campsite for another decade. Both exhausted and refreshed, the chilly weather and long hours spent combing the shores faded into memory as the sunshine highlighted pristine waters. Heading back to Fisherman’s Landing we all witnessed an iconic spectacle as a final farewell. A scant hundred or so feet ahead directly above us an osprey hovered, then swooped into a steep dive, scooping a large fish from the water before our very eyes! What a way to end the adventure.

Diane is an independent author, naturalist/educator and lake and stream advocate. She can be reached at dianaenplaya@gmail.com.

National nonprofit Knots of Love delivers their 700,000th free handmade gift of love to cancer center in Ashland, WI

Submitted article and photo

Knots of Love COO Geoff Shively, one of the local board members, Diana Rea, and Christine Fabiani, founder of Knots of Love, delivered their 700,000th free handmade gift of love, to a social worker, Laura Martinsen at Tamarack Cancer Center last month!

The bag contained our standard distribution of high quality, stylish, hand knit and crocheted beanies. Made by our Knots of Love Family of Makers from all over the country.

“It’s been an amazing journey and we are still going strong! God continues to bless us at every step of the way. We would like to thank you, the local chamber of commerce the local body of believers and followers of Jesus, including Summit Church, who’s been a great help and supporter of our ministry,” said Christine Fabiani.



For more information or to make a donation today to help thousands in need visit KnotsofLove.org
Based in Ashland, Wisconsin, Knots of Love is a 501c3 nonprofit that provides free premium hand-knit and crocheted beanies to people fighting cancer and NICU blankets to tiny preemie babies in neonatal ICUs. Knots of Love distributes to over 590+ treatment centers, infusion centers, hospitals, oncology offices, & neonatal intensive care units across the USA.

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