

Please enroll me as a
Member of Navarino Nature Center

Please check appropriate box

New Renewal

Amount Enclosed (please check level of choice)

Annual Membership

- Student (under 18) \$15 Annually
- Individual \$25 Annually
- Family \$35 Annually
- Business \$50 Annually

Sustainable Supporters Levels

- Acorn \$100 Annually
- Seedling \$250 Annually
- Pioneer \$500 Annually
- Guardian \$1000 Annually
- Steward \$2500 Annually
- Leopold \$5000 Annually

Additional Donation _____

Total _____

Name _____

First Initial Last

Address _____

Street / Route Apt / Box

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Amount of check \$ _____ Payable to Navarino Nature Center

Members receive 6 issues of the "Tales of Nature" newsletter and other benefits.

For more information contact:

Navarino Nature Center
W5646 Lindsten Rd.
Shiocton, WI 54170



Phone: (715)758-6999
Email: navarinonc@gmail.com
Web: www.navarino.org





Welcome to the Navarino Wildlife Area!

This self-guide auto tour is to help visitors to the Navarino Wildlife Area understand the history, wildlife management practices, and natural splendor that Navarino has to offer. The tour consists of 26 stops, which run along a route that makes 3 connecting loops. The first loop includes stops 1 thru 14, second loop includes stops 15 thru 21, and the third loop includes stops 22 thru 26. Feel free to do as much of the tour as your time allows, and come back and finish the tour at a later date.

The total tour is 47.0 miles long and takes about 2 hours to drive, so refer to the map for section lengths. It is not required to do all the sections in the same day. Come back and visit us again another day if you have a limited amount of time. Please drive about 15—25 MPH. Take time to stop, look and listen for wildlife. Animals are usually active mornings and evenings, these are the best times for viewing. A map of the complete route is located in the center of the booklet, follow the numbered auto tour markers on the map, stop at each point and read the corresponding description in the booklet.

Funding for maintaining state wildlife areas is obtained from the sales of hunting and fishing licenses, and from revenues generated from the Pittman-Robertson Act, a federal excise tax levied on the sales of hunting equipment.

Information in this booklet came from the following sources:

- Navarino Timber Trails and Tales, Navarino History Committee
- Shawano County Sesquicentennial 1853 - 2003, Shawano County
- Barns of Wisconsin, by Jerry Apps, Wisconsin Trails Magazine
- Rural Schools of Waupaca County, Waupaca County Historical Society
- Lake Sturgeon, Maureen Mecozzi WDNR PUBL - FM 704 88

Navarino Nature Center Naturalist Endowment Fund

Navarino Nature Center Mission Statement:

To educate people of all ages on the importance of conserving natural resources and wildlife habitat, promoting renewable energy, and developing a healthy lifestyle by engaging in wellness opportunities.

Is Navarino worth supporting? More than 400 members of Navarino Nature Center (NNC) believe so. NNC annually provides programs to the general public and to public and private schools from the surrounding area. NNC would not be able to do this without volunteer efforts and donations.

Currently, Navarino Nature Center (NNC) is working on establishing a *Naturalist Endowment Fund*. This fund would allow the Nature Center to support a full-time naturalist and assistants. This booklet was created by Nature Center staff, who also schedules both public and private school programs. Contact the nature center for scheduling a program, or a presentation/program for your group.

*We hope that you've enjoyed your trip through the
Navarino Wildlife Area.*

If you would like to help support and contribute to the *Naturalist Endowment Fund*, please contact NNC at 715-758-6999 or mail your monetary gift to:

Navarino Nature Center
W5646 Lindsten Road
Shiocton, WI 54170

Please list on your check or letter, that it be directed to the *Naturalist Endowment Fund* campaign. Without donations from individuals like you, none of this would have been possible.

*NNC is a private non-profit nature center, working in cooperation with the Wisconsin DNR.

Thank You



Wolf River Bridge Mile 40.2

The bridge crossing the Wolf River on Hwy 156 almost didn't happen. "In the very early 1900's it became apparent that a real need was a bridge across the Wolf River to Clintonville from Navarino." "In April, 1903 the Navarino Town board met with the business people of Clintonville to discuss a bridge." After some controversy over locations of the bridge, "it was decided to go ahead and ask for pledges to help fund the project from the Navarino residents and the Clintonville merchants."

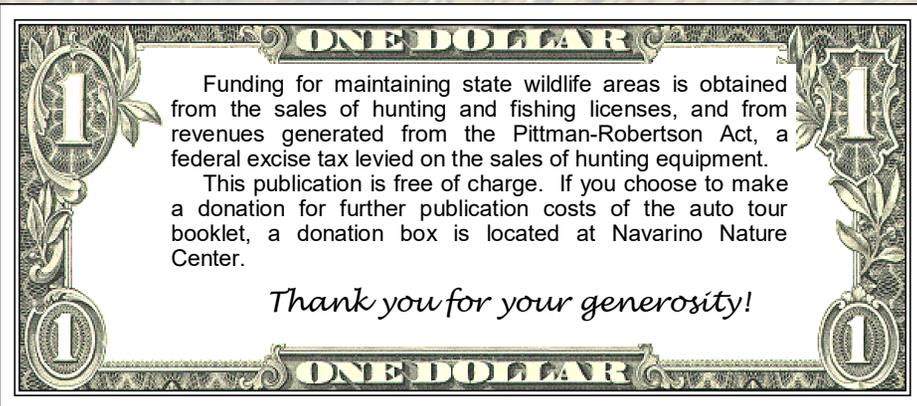
"In February, 1906 the contract for the building of the bridge was let to Continental Bridge Co., Chicago. The structure was to be steel and it was to be ready for traffic by July 1, 1906." An article in the local paper said, " July 1st cannot roll around too soon to suit the business men of Clintonville or the residents of Navarino and both will hail with delight the advent of the new bridge." They completed the bridge on time, and it served until 1953, when it was replaced.

Highway 156 has since become a busy highway with traffic coming from Green Bay through Clintonville. The current bridge was built in the 1990's, replacing the 1953 bridge, which was needed due to the increase in traffic between Clintonville, Navarino, and Green Bay.

Source: Navarino Timber Trails and Tales

Directions: Follow Hwy 156 east to McDonald Rd to get back to the Nature Center.

This completes the 3rd loop.



Introduction to Navarino Wildlife Area

Navarino Wildlife Area (NWA) is a 15,000 acre State Wildlife Management Area, located in southern Shawano and northeast Waupaca Counties. Habitat types on the property include open fields, conifer swamps, lowland shrub, bog, bottomland hardwoods, pine plantations, and aspen/oak forests. Current forest management practices are utilized to maximize timber values for wildlife through a variety of cutting methods. Water control structures are used to control surface water levels on the flowages for waterfowl and aquatic animals. Prescribed burns are used to reduce the amount of woody vegetation within the grassland / prairie habitats.

Navarino Wildlife Area began as a donation of 982 acres from Shawano County in 1954. The first purchase of 557 acres was in 1955 by the Wisconsin Conservation Department. Local conservation groups were leaders in urging for the development of a wildlife area prior to the first land acquisition. The acreage goal for Navarino initially started at 9,400 acres. This goal was raised to 16,166 acres in 1969, and raised to 16,500 acres in 1979. The first dike was constructed in 1962, since then 14 other dikes have been constructed, totaling over 1,400 acres of water which can be controlled.

ACREAGES:

Wetland forest	2,400 acres
Brush swamp	3,900 acres
Marsh	2,000 acres
Upland forest	4,400 acres
Upland grass	840 acres
Cropland	325 acres

Navarino Wildlife Area is the northern most wildlife area, which make up the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Natural Resources Area (LWRBNRA) as of 2002. The LWRBNRA is a bigger project area from the Shawano Dam to Lake Poygan. It protects regionally significant natural communities and provides necessary habitat for various wildlife and aquatic communities.





Navarino Nature Center Mile 0



Navarino Nature Center (NNC) is a non-profit group, which was established in April of 1986 with the purpose of developing and maintaining a nature center in the area, and to promote environmental and natural science education.



NNC has partnered with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on Navarino Wildlife Area (NWA), and leases 40 acres from the DNR for the NNC facilities. The nature center offers programming for the general public, service groups, and school groups. Programs held at NNC can be both fun and educational at the same time, and vary on a large variety of topics. NNC is driven by volunteer help and support. NNC currently has one full-time Naturalist/Director and one part time Assistant Naturalist that coordinates

all programs and daily activities at the nature center.

Recreational opportunities offered through NNC includes; cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, berry picking, bird watching, star gazing, canoeing, wagon/trolley rides, and various environment related workshops.

Directions: Set your trip to 0, now follow Lindsten Road west) to stop # 2. (mile 0.9 on trip gauge)



Sturgeon on the Wolf Mile 40.0

Lake sturgeon are referred to as a “bottom dwelling living fossil,” which are very rare in the United States. We are lucky in Wisconsin to have multiple populations: Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Winnebago, Fox and Wolf Rivers.

Sturgeon migrate from Lake Winnebago up the Wolf River to spawn at the Shawano Dam and along the banks. This is one of the locations that you can observe them on their trip north; normally they will mass migrate through an area within several days.

Spawning normally runs from late April to early June, when the water temperature is around 58 degrees F.

Female sturgeon can lay 50,000 to 700,000 eggs in one season. Sturgeon have a life span normally of 70 – 100+ years, an 82 year old sturgeon is the record in Wisconsin.

Sturgeon are bottom feeders, which like to search along the silt and gravel for food. They prefer to eat small organisms — snails, insect larva, leeches, small clams, and other invertebrates.

Source: WDNR publication FM-704 88

Shadows on the Wolf



Local nonprofit sportsman’s group “Shadows on the Wolf-Shiocton” have a sturgeon viewing area called Bamboo Bend. The group created a Sturgeon spawning habitat along the shoreline of the Wolf River in Shiocton. They also have a webcam so you can view the live action. <http://www.wolfrivercam.com/>

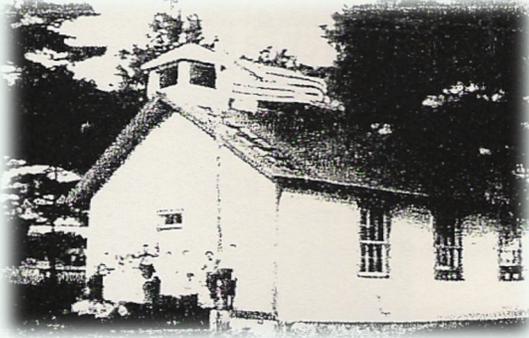
Directions: Read stop # 26 (mile 40.2)



Wolf River School

Mile 36.5

“Wolf River School is located about four miles east of Embarrass on County Highway C in Section 1. Records of Matteson Township show that people started paying school tax in 1887.”



WOLF RIVER SCHOOL

Records show the first teacher was paid \$28 a month. “On July 3, 1899, the district decided to have free texts and to raise \$25 to paint the school. On July 2, 1900, voters decided to have a well at the school.”

“According to the available records, the length of the school year was seven months until 1900, eight months until 1924, and after that time there was a mixture of eight and nine months. After 1937, the law required nine months.”

“Whether or not to build a new school became an issue in 1920. On July 31, 1920, voters decided “to put off the building a new school for a year, or until the building can be erected at a more reasonable price.” On July 5, 1921 they also voted to put off building.” Maintenance and improvements were done to the school through 1961. “A Special meeting was held on August 30, 1961 to discuss integration.” With the spring of 1962 Wolf River School, Jt. Dist. No. 4 Matteson and Navarino had closed.

Historic tidbit: Matteson township is named after Roswell Matteson, who settled in the area in 1855. Originally part of Shawano County, the township was moved to Waupaca County in 1860.

Source: Rural Schools of Waupaca County, Waupaca Cty Historical Society, Don Hanson & Joan Paulson

Directions: Follow Cty Hwy C to Cty Hwy CC, turn left onto CC, take CC to Hwy 156 (east), turn left onto Hwy 156, stop at the Wolf River Bridge for stop # 25. (mile 40.0)



Agriculture & Wildlife Mile 0.9

On your right side is an example of agriculture and wildlife existing in harmony. Grasslands are not cut until the nesting of many grassland birds is complete. Cornfields are not plowed until late spring so waste grain can be utilized by migrating birds. Flowages are raised after fall harvest and lowered in late spring to allow frogs and waterfowl places to forage and breed. Waterways are not cropped to reduce soil erosion and preserve water quality.

A mix of agricultural fields, forests, wetlands, and grasslands lead to healthy and diverse wildlife populations.

Directions: follow Lindsten Road to the intersection of Lindsten & McDonald, turn right onto McDonald Road and proceed to stop # 3. (mile 1.8 on trip gauge)



Marsh Haying Mile 1.8

“It seems that right from the beginning the early settlers in the town who were starting out as farmers made hay on the hay marshes. Starting with a horse and plow or team of oxen, their small fields didn’t leave a lot of room for all necessary crops. The hay growing wild in the Navarino marshes was a “Godsend” to many of them. It didn’t take long before they were to learn that “marsh hay” just wasn’t marsh hay, that there were at least five different types growing wild, with “Blue Joint,” and “Red Top,” at the top of the list.”

“The fires that swept through the marshes and cut over river-bottom land had kept down the bunch-grass and willow brush, making for fairly easy mowing from one year to the next. If for some reason some marshes escaped haying during the summer, come fall there was sure to be a fire.”

Source: Navarino Timber Trails and Tales

Directions: Follow McDonald Road to stop # 4. (mile 2.5)



Seasonal Closed Area Mile 2.5

You are currently driving along the west side of the 1,000 acre refuge on the wildlife area. This area is closed to hunting during the waterfowl season, except gun deer season and before and after the close of waterfowl season. The purpose of the seasonal closed area to allow a resting place for migrating waterfowl, and provide hunters with a reservoir of waterfowl during the hunting season. Thousands of Canada geese, Tundra swans, Sandhill cranes, and other waterfowl can be seen using Pike's Peak Flowage during the spring and fall migrations.



is



Handicapped Viewing Deck 300ft from parking lot. Sponsored by NE Wisconsin Safari Club International and SABLES.



Watchable Wildlife: Stop and listen to the geese and cranes during the months of April-June, and September-October.

Directions: Follow McDonald Road to stop # 5. (mile 3.0.)



Wetland Management Mile 3.0

Wetlands at Navarino are managed to provide a range of habitats, from sedge meadows and cattail marshes to open water. Fifteen dikes flood over 1,400 acres. Flowages are dependent on precipitation and may dry up during drought. Water levels are manipulated to maintain a balance between open water, and aquatic vegetation, with a 50:50 ratio being optimum.

The flowages have different names depending on size, shape, or settlers who lived in the area.

Named for size — 80 acre flowage

Named due to shape — Loop flowage

Named due to location — Wolf River flowage

Named after settlers — Hansen, Johnson, McDonald, Wallrich, Hogan, and Schultz

Directions: Follow McDonald road to stop # 6. (mile 4.4.)



Wisconsin's Barns Mile 35.6

With the Homestead Act of 1862, opening up our lands to settlement, the family farm became the economic unit of agriculture. The farm's barn was the hub of the entire operation. At the turn of the 20th century, Wisconsin had finally become the dairy state after a transition from wheat farming that had taken almost 50 years. Few big barns could be found in Wisconsin prior to the Civil War because wheat farmers had a barn only large enough to house their work animals. Barn size expanded to house the dairy cattle and protect them from the long, cold, Wisconsin winters. Barn building changed also after 1900. Field stone foundations were replaced by concrete and the timbers were not obtained from the farmer's own land, as in the past. Red paint was cheaper than white paint, it lasted well, and was a pleasing contrast to the white farmhouse. The architecture of the barns in this area include: Pennsylvania-style bank barns, bank barns with Dutch and New England gambrel roofs, and arched roof barns. Silos allowed crops to be stored for winter-feeding and also came in various styles. source: Barns of Wisconsin, by Jerry Apps



Directions: Continue along Hwy C to stop # 24. (mile 36.5)



Wolf River

Mile 31.9

You are now on the banks of the Wolf River, the original highway into this area. Historically, an individual “could hire Indians at New London to paddle them to Shawano by canoe, a three day trip.” During the mid 1800’s, steamboats would regularly run from Shiocton to Shawano. “Steamboats that came into the area were the Outagamie, the Little Pearl, which was a side-wheeler about 50ft. long, the W.A. Knapp, built in Oshkosh in 1856, which was 105ft. long and later ended up in the Mississippi traveling the lower Wolf.” These trips were slow due to the lumber industry in the area, and the danger of hitting sunken logs along the route.

The area between the Wolf and Shioc Rivers is referred to as the “Pineries,” due in part because some of the best stands of pine in the state were found in this area. Loggers would float the cut pine down the Wolf River to the lumber mills in the Fox Valley. The first log drive occurred around 1843, with the last around 1910. One of the largest drives was thought to have floated “150 million board feet of pine,” this occurred around 1873. With the lack of trees to keep the soil in place, erosion eventually made the Wolf & Shioc Rivers shallower.

Source: Navarino Timber Trails and Tales

Directions: Follow Hwy CCC (west) to the intersection of Hwy CCC and CC, turn left on to CC, continue on CC to the county line CC then becomes C, follow C to stop # 23. (mile 35.6)



McDonald’s Cabin & McDonald Rd. Mile 4.4

At the turn of the 20th century Emanuel McDonald, a black man, came to John Lund’s cheese factory and store in the small Norwegian community called Lund’s Corners, looking for work. He helped the Waukechon area farmers clear some of their land of trees and stones. For pay, he got his room and board. The locals also gave him materials and helped him build a little cabin south of Town Line Road and east of a road that cuts through the Navarino Wildlife Area. Years ago when speaking of this road, what was then called the “Navarino Marsh,” was always referred to as McDonald Road because of the small dwelling the black man had there.



Photo Courtesy: Burnette Mutter
Emanuel McDonald

“Mac,” as the people referred to him, was very well liked because he was a musician and he sang & entertained with his guitar at barn dances and social gatherings. He stayed in the area about five years then drifted away. Mac settled in a little cabin on the banks of Red River between Morgan and Gresham in the town of Red Springs.”

Sources: Burnette Mutter, Shawano County Sesquicentennial, & Navarino Timber Trails and Tales



McDonald road is a blacktop road over 3 miles in length, and is traveled frequently by those who enjoy viewing wildlife and nature. **Drive slowly** to avoid collisions with the wildlife that live here.

Directions: Turn right at the intersection of McDonald Road & Townline road, continue to stop # 7. (mile 5.0)



The Railroad Mile

“Area abstracts show that 1916 was the year when land was being acquired in Galesburg and the township of Navarino for a railroad. Train service was already into Shawano from the north and as far as Black Creek from the south, so it was a matter of filling in from Shawano to Black Creek.”

The Wisconsin & Northern Railroad began grading in the spring of 1917, so by the fall the trains were rolling. The train would depart Shawano for Black Creek, then head back to Shawano on their way north to Crandon. Passengers could catch connectors between trains for Stevens Point, Green Bay, New London, Grand Rapids, etc.

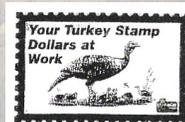
“The Wisconsin & Northern railroad was sold to the Soo Line on July 23, 1923.” “During the early days, forest products and transportation into the northern areas were the main reasons for the existence of the Soo Line. However, as the forests thinned and roads improved, in the early twenties, passenger drop off resulted.”

Diesel locomotives replaced steam engines, and passenger service came to an end. The Soo Line sold the railway in 1987 to the Wisconsin Central. Trains still run along these tracks carrying freight from town to town.

Source: Navarino Timber Trails and Tales

Directions: Follow Townline Road to stop # 8. (mile 5.8)

This booklet printed in co-operation between Navarino Nature Center and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, thanks to a grant from Turkey Stamp funding.



Riverside

Mile 31.9

You have now entered the community of Riverside, which started around 1870 and is located between the “Old Shawano Road” and the Wolf River. Riverside had a post office and was along the stage coach line heading north to Shawano. With the railroad going through Lunds, and the establishment of other post offices in the area, the community stopped growing. Perhaps Riverside is growing once again, as many have started to move to the country to get away from urban living.



If you look behind you on the east side of the county highway K, you will see this monument to the Riverside Post Office.

Source: Navarino Timber Trails and Tales

Directions: Continue along Hwy CCC to the boat ramp, and stop # 22. (mile 32.3) *This is the end of loop # 2.*



Lunds — Lund's Corner Mile 30.4

You are now entering the community of Lunds, which was referred to as Lund's Corners at the turn of the 20th Century. Lunds was a successful community in the 1920's with a saloon, store, and cheese factory. It benefited greatly by having the railroad come through the community daily. The railroad and growth occurring in Lunds, however was the downfall for the community of Riverside stop # 21.

Photo: Lund's Store built in 1904-05

Source: Navarino Timber Trails and Tales, photo s- Dolores Paulson



Building the railroad 1917

Directions:

Follow Cty Hwy T to the intersection of Cty Hwy T & Hwy K, turn left on to Hwy K, # 21 is across from the junction of K and CCC. Turn right onto Cty Hwy CCC and stop # 21.



Prairie Management Mile 5.8

These grasslands are retired agricultural fields, which were used for grazing or plowed for corn and buckwheat. Many old-field plants established themselves when the fields were left fallow. Other plants were introduced to the area in the steps towards establishing a prairie. The conspicuous grasses such as Big Bluestem and Indian Grass, as well as the showy flowers like Rosinweed and Rattlesnake Master are a couple.



One of the management techniques used is prescribed burning. Each field is divided into a number of different burn units, and a portion of that field is then burned every year. This gives the prairie plants, which are adapted to fire, a competitive advantage over any exotics. Prescribed burning removes the layer of dead plant material from the surface of the soil, allowing the nutrients, in the ash, to be returned to the soil in the next rainfall. After a burn, flowering prairie plants will increase in the burnt area, however they will also decrease in proportion to the length of time since the burn. Prairie animals and birds are also affected by burns, so they must be timed to have the least negative affect on them.

If you look along the power lines to the right, depending on the time of year, you may be able to see an Osprey nest on one of the far power-poles. Roll down the window and listen for a minute. You may hear Sandhill Cranes, geese, ducks, owls, or countless songbirds in the woods and prairies. April and May are the busiest months for prescribed burning to set back the cool-season grasses.

Directions: Go straight ahead to the parking lot, turn around and follow Townline Road to the intersection of Townline & Highway County K, turn left on to Hwy K and continue to stop # 9. (mile 9.8)



Berry picking

Mile 9.8

Blackberry and blueberry picking are very popular summer activities, and attract families and groups from 50 to 100 miles away. While for some local residents, many of whom had relatives who at one time owned land within the property, berry-picking has become a traditional activity. Blueberry picking is common during the month of July, while Blackberry picking is traditionally done in August.

Everyone is welcome to pick berries, however you should be prepared to ward off deer flies, mosquitoes, and ticks. A hat, long sleeve shirt, and bug protection is a must before you collect any berries.

Directions: Follow Hwy K to stop # 10. (mile 10.4)



Ruffed grouse and Woodcock Mile 10.4

Quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and Bigtooth aspen (*Populus grandidentata*) are commonly called “popple.” This forest type supports a greater number and wider variety of wildlife than any other type in Wisconsin. Aspen is easily regenerated through cutting, with the new sprouts using the root system of the cut tree. Since it is a sun-loving tree, it is important to cut most trees within the sale to give aspen adequate sunlight. The new suckers will grow 6 to 10 feet in their first summer. Within 10 years, the new stand will provide prime habitat for ruffed grouse broods that are protected by the overhead cover. The well-developed shrub layer provides food and cover for many herbivores. As aspen matures, it goes through natural competitive thinning and the density decreases. At about 25 years, aspen provides secure nesting cover for ruffed grouse hens, and trees develop flower buds which are excellent



winter food for grouse. The shape and size of clear-cuts affect the utility of the habitat for a variety of wildlife. Irregular-shaped and 5-20 acres in size is recommended. A diversity of age-classes is also important. Leaving most bearing trees, like oak and cherry, provide more diversity to the stand.



From Cabbages to Pine Mile 20.9

This private land that is now in pine plantations, used to be cabbage fields in the 1980's. In 1989, the west fields were enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and 244 acres were planted to red, white and some jack pine. In 1992, the east fields were enrolled in CRP and 193 acres was planted to conifers and hardwoods, including oak. Since then, some of the land has been divided and the parcels have been sold. Just like the old homesteaders, new people are building on their land in the country.



Directions: Follow Lessor-Navarino Road to the intersection of Lessor-Navarino and Landstad Road, turn right onto Landstad Road, at the intersection of Landstad Road and Twin Creek Road turn left, continue down Twin Creek Road to the intersection of Twin Creek Road & Wildlife Road, turn left on Wildlife Road, stop at # 19. (mile 25.3)



Shioc River

Mile 25.3

The Shioc is named after a Menominee War Chief, Chief Shioc, whose name means “force of wind.” It is a tributary to the Wolf River, having its headwaters in Shawano County and flowing south and west to meet the Wolf River in Outagamie County, north of the City of Shiocton.”



“The main steam is formed by the confluence of the West & East Branches of the Shioc River north of Navarino and extends for 28 miles. The fishery is derived from the Wolf River and is especially important during spring, when walleye and bass use the river for spawning. One river characteristic is extreme water level fluctuations with low water and isolated pools during the summer.”

Source: Wolf River Basin: Water Quality Management Plan
Navarino Timber Trails and Tales

Directions: Continue on Wildlife Road to the intersection of Wildlife & Valley Road, turn right onto Valley, at the intersection of Valley and Sunrise Road turn left, take Sunrise to Cty Hwy T, turn left onto T, next stop Lunds # 20. (mile 30.4)



Shioc River

Mile 17.5



As you look into the waters of the Shioc in Navarino, you would never guess that it played an important part in logging the surrounding area during the late 1800's. The river was dammed until enough water accumulated to float the logs downstream to Shiocton and the Wolf River. "Old records show there were 14

logging camps on the river and a total of 20,500,000 feet of lumber went out one winter."

Common fish that you will find in the Shioc include: Northern pike, suckers, white bass, and minnows. Due to beaver dams and downed trees the Shioc is nearly impossible to navigate.

Directions: Follow Hwy 156 to the edge of Navarino, turn left onto Lessor-Navarino Road at the Firehouse (mile 17.8), continue to stop # 17. (mile 19.8)

Source: Navarino Timber Trails and Tales



Bottomland Hardwoods Mile 19.8

You are entering a Silver Maple Bottomland Hardwoods habitat, along the Shioc River. Silver maples are shade-tolerant, water loving trees that usually become mature forests. The top layer of the forest is called the "canopy". This canopy layer is almost entirely Silver maples. They absorb so much of the sunlight that forest floor vegetation is low growing or non-existent. You may have a Silver Maple around your house or see them in town. Silver Maples are also referred to as "soft maple," because the wood can be brittle and not as strong as Sugar Maple.



Management practices help to open the canopy to allow both regeneration of maple, and other non-shade tolerant species, like swamp white oak.

Directions: Continue on Lessor-Navarino Road to stop # 18. (mile 20.9)



Oak Management Studies Mile 10.9

What you are looking at is an example of a forest management plan to help simulate Oak regeneration. Regeneration is started by reducing the oak forest canopy to 50 %, this is by harvesting some of the trees to make openings in the canopy layer, thus allowing sunlight for new seedlings. This type of cutting is called a Shelter wood, allowing mature trees to seed & shelter seedlings. Spring burns remove many competing plants like red maple and witch hazel seedlings, both of these species will take over if not managed.



Wildlife benefits both by the prescribe burning & by the oak management. Burning removes underbrush creating more forage for wildlife, and creating snag trees for wildlife homes. Oaks provide important habitat for deer, turkeys, squirrels, raccoon, black bear, ruffed grouse, woodpeckers, blue jays, and various song birds.

Directions: Follow Hwy K to stop # 12. (mile 11.4)

Cavities are also important, so leaving hollow, dead and dying trees provides homes for many different types of animals. When these finally fall to the ground, they provide drumming logs for grouse and provide coarse, woody debris for salamanders and small mammals. Leaving conifers also adds wildlife cover and shelter to an aspen stand. Young stands are important to many songbirds such as golden-winged warblers, chestnut-sided warblers, mourning warblers, and white-throated sparrows. Black-capped chickadees and many woodpeckers use the soft wood of aspen to excavate cavities for nesting or for finding food. Many songbirds nest in aspen forests. Predators are also supported by wildlife produced in aspen forests. The habitat specialists that need early successional types depend on aspen, like the woodcock. Aspen is a preferred food for beaver which impact habitat and provide a different type of habitat for other wildlife, like wood ducks.



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Directions: Follow Hwy K to stop #11. (mile 10.9)



Old Shawano Road Mile 11.4

The Wisconsin State Legislature in 1859 passed an act that created the beginnings of the “Old Shawano Road.” Lumbermen in Oshkosh using some of their political clout were instrumental in getting the legislature to pass the act, thus creating the road. Before the creation of the road, “logging equipment, men and supplies had to be brought up the Wolf River.” The road started in New London, went to Shiocton, then turned north to Shawano. “Early records described the road as being a “wagon road of sorts,” and quite primitive, with corduroy (log boards) in the marshy places.” The road had a strong influence on the history and settlement in the region, and by the mid-1860s was heavily trafficked with travelers, immigrants, mail, and logging sleds. Highways 187 and county K follow along this same route, however, if you look or walk into the woods, on the east side, the raised impression of “Old Shawano Road” remains.

Historic tidbit: “According to some of the early lumberman’s records,” this was an “ancient Indian trail from Shiocton to Lake Shawanaw country.” Many Native American tribes have settled in this area over the years. “The Mesquakie settlement of Ouestatimong is the earliest documented village in the area. Ouestatimong, founded in the years prior to 1668, was located about 5 miles south, in the area of modern Leeman.” “Numerous garden bed sites, and evidence of a stockaded village have been recorded.”

“The Menominee founded Waupomasah on the west shore of Lake Shawano in 1810. The first Menominee village was joined by another, called Kakawanikone, by 1830. By 1870 a mission had been established at Shawano to serve a booming Menominee population, and the village of Anakakika had been founded on the west shore of the Wolf River near modern **Lunds**.”

Source: Navarino Timber Trails and Tales
Phase 1 Archaeological Survey of CTH “K”, WDOT

Directions: Follow K to the intersection of K and 156, continue straight onto Hwy 156, stop at # 13. (mile 11.8)



Galesburg before Navarino Mile 17.2

Towns are usually named after a place, person, or event, with Navarino being no exception. This area was originally referred to as Vang’s Place, after a Norwegian, Andrew Vang. He built a saw mill, lath, planer, and dam on the Shioc River in the 1860’s. The area started to grow, and with growth comes services.

“In 1883, Truman Hilliker decided to move his post office into the village and a name had to be chosen. It was named Galesburg for Gale Cole, who was a prominent farmer, east of the village in the town of Lessor.” Galesburg had a school, flour mill (4 stories high), saw mill, and post office by 1884. The railroad came to town in 1917, complete with depot.

In August of 1919, the village of Galesburg was contacted by the U.S. Government. It seems that the Post Office service was having problems with names of post offices that were similar or the same. The problem for Galesburg was that it was being confused with Galesville in southern Wisconsin, and Galesburg, Illinois. The residents of Galesburg did not like having to change the name of the village, however the name change would be of little inconvenience to the government. The alternative name was after the Township of Navarino (established in 1874), which was accepted by both the residents and government alike.

Historic tidbit: Navarino is Greek, coming from the Greek seaport of Navarino, and the Battle of Navarino in 1827.

Source: Navarino Timber Trails and Tales



Directions: Proceed to the bridge for stop # 16. (mile 17.5)



The Big Ditch Mile 14.0

“In October 1907 the town board of Navarino voted to buy a dredge so that much needed ditching could be done in the area. Julius Hanson was authorized to make a trip to St. Paul, MN to purchase the dredge. The dredge was purchased from the American Hoist and Derrick Co. for \$1,107.48, plus \$71.12 freight. Travel costs for Hanson’s trip were \$35.28. This was just the beginning of the cost for the dredge, a roof had to be built over it and cost of that totaled over \$100.00.

Then began the cost of buying and hauling coal from Green Bay for the steam driven engine. In March 1908 they ordered 20 tons of coal at \$3.50 per ton. Men of the town began making trips to Green Bay to haul the coal out by horse and wagon.

The dredging took place from 1907—1909. Those who worked on the dredge were: Julius Hanson, Eldor Knutson, Halvor Johnson, Laurence Mathison, John Westgor, Ira Hilliker, George Pues, and Chris Bentson.

There were many who hauled coal, others who worked clearing brush in advance of the dredge. It was truly a community project, and a costly one for the town, but it was a wise decision to spend the money to drain the land for farming and it paid off over the years.



This ditch started on the north side of town, went east and then south, west into Sheldon Creek ending at the Wolf River.

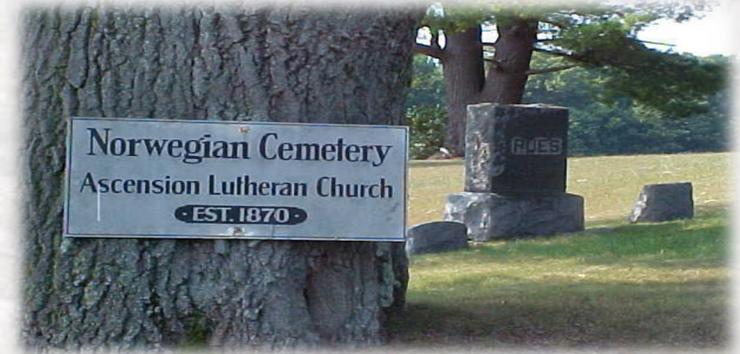
Strangely, although the farmers were willing to spend the town money for the big ditch, when it came to spending their money to do more needed ditching, afraid that their taxes would raise, they refused to do more ditching into the big ditch. It wasn’t until many years later that many began to see that it was worth spending the money to get their land into use.

Source: Navarino Timber Trails and Tales

Directions: Follow Hwy 156 into Navarino, stop for #'s 15 & 16 at the Shioc River. (mile 17.2)



Norwegian Cemetery Mile 11.8



This cemetery is one of the few reminders of the small town of Hilda, and the Norwegian settlers that moved to the area around Galesburg/Navarino. Many of these settlers were farmers and loggers. They started a Norwegian Lutheran Church in 1869 and cemetery in 1870; services were held in an old log school. The Norwegian Settler Cemetery was used from 1870 until around 1909. It is maintained by the Cemetery Committee at Ascension Lutheran Church, formerly Norwegian Lutheran.

Source: Navarino Timber Trails and Tales



Directions: Follow Hwy 156 (east) to stop #14. (mile 14.0)

Navarino Wildlife Area

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

County K
to Shawano

