

WOOD RIVER RETREAT

Welcome! Here are a few pointers to make your stay and our cabin happy and peaceful...

Front Door Code: is in your Airbnb info. To leave just press 'Lock'.

Wireless Network: 'Wood River Retreat'. No password needed. Router located in basement.

Thermostat: In hallway closet, left of phone. Turn up or down (rotate case) to desired temp, as necessary.

Cell Phone: Very reliable, good service is usually available

Land Line Phone: In hallway closet wall. Important numbers are listed. Long distance- please ask them call you back.

Water: Very pure water is pumped from our deep well and then filtered.
Please conserve waste water by turning it off while doing dishes, brushing teeth, etc.

Dishes: Wash all dishes with very hot water. Please *do not* wash the cast iron pan with soap, as it will ruin the seasoning. Dirty dishwater can be saved and used outside to water trees if desired...

Grill: Grill utensils are inside door, underneath grill. Turn on gas valve on propane tank, to the right of grill. There is usually an extra full propane tank in the basement, if necessary. Turn gas valve all the way off when done!

Compost: Wood bin to the right of the firewood rack. Do not put meat or dairy in the compost!

Linens: Fresh organic sheet sets are on each of the beds

Blankets: More in cedar chest in master bedroom

Bath Towels, washcloths and rags: More in hallway closet if needed

Yoga Mats: There are two new yoga mats in the second bedroom, on the side of the black cabinet

Music: Plays CDs, FM and Bluetooth streaming. There is a black cable that you can plug into your phone or computer but better sound is from CDs or Bluetooth streaming.

4K HDTV: Use TV remote. Sound comes thru Marantz stereo, volume controlled by Marantz remote

Outdoor lights: String lights on deck are on a timer come on at dusk and are set to turn off 2 hours later

Circuit Breakers: If you trip a circuit breaker, the box is located in the basement: left side, front corner.

Sauna: located down the path from the cabin. See Sauna instruction page for details.

Woodstove: Keep fires in the woodstove small and reasonable. See instruction page. Keep flammable materials cleared well away from the woodstove! When burning wood also run ceiling fan on low to distribute heat.

Firewood: Please replace wood in woodstove whenever possible so it will be there for the next guests. There is a supply of dry, seasoned firewood in the woodshed. If you want to split more there is an axe by the woodpile.

Cookouts/bonfires: All outdoor fires must be kept to a very reasonable size and be attended to at all times. *Do not* leave a bonfire unattended, burning overnight, or smoldering when you leave. Fill a plastic water bucket with the hose (except in winter) and have it with you by the fire. *Please be very careful!!!*

There is much dead wood and kindling available along the driveway and in the woods. *Do not* burn the expensive seasoned and split hardwood from the wood pile for bonfires. Use the wood near the fire pit or gather your own!

WOOD RIVER RETREAT

HOUSE RULES:

- Check-in is at 4 pm or later, check-out is by noon.
- No events or parties allowed. This is a quiet and private retreat space not a gathering spot or party house!
- No additional guests without prior approval
- Bring your own dog bed. Please keep pets off furniture and bedding. Others may be allergic!
- No smoking anything inside the house or on the screen porch
- No firearms inside house. No hunting on grounds
- Please be *very* careful and extremely safe with fires! Keep all bonfires small and attended. Fire safety is crucial!
- If you use the last of staples, condiments, etc. please let us know so we can replace them for the next guests
- Put back anything that you have moved outside and in back to where it came from before you leave
- Please try to leave the place as neat and tidy as you found it

I hope you relax as much as possible and enjoy your time here! May it be rejuvenating in mind, body & spirit.

Thank you!

Doug

WOOD RIVER RETREAT

KITCHEN APPLIANCES

Kitchen appliances:

- Gas stove and oven
- Microwave oven
- Air fryer/toaster oven
- Blender • Rice cooker • Crockpot • Popcorn popper

Coffee & tea

- Drip coffee maker and filters
- Espresso machine
- French-press coffee maker, Bialetti stovetop espresso maker
- Coffee bean grinder
- Organic coffee beans
- A nice selection of tea

Breakfast:

- Oatmeal and Instant Oatmeal
- Raisins, cinnamon, brown sugar or local maple syrup to add to oatmeal
- Other groceries often available in cupboard- help yourself if there is something you need!

Cooking supplies:

There are many plates, bowls, glasses, coffee mugs, wine glasses, utensils, knives, pots and pans, etc.
Also: Cast-iron pan, griddle, cutting boards, strainer, cookie sheet, brownie pan, measuring cup + spoons...

Pantry supplies:

- Salt, pepper, sea salt, spices
- Balsamic vinegar
- Olive oil, vegetable and canola oil
- Local real maple syrup (life is too short for the fake corn-syrup crap!)
- Popcorn
- Ketchup, mustard, hot sauce
- There are usually many other condiments and salad dressings
- Dishwashing liquid is built in to sink (pump is to the right of faucet)
- Aluminum foil, plastic wrap, compostable food scrap bags for compost, plastic garbage bags

Outside:

- Large Weber gas grill
- Grill utensils
- There is a hot dog skewer for the fire pit hanging on the porch or on side of bonfire wood rack

Water:

- Water is pumped from our own deep well, then filtered, and is very pure and tasty for drinking.
- Please practice mindfulness and don't run water needlessly while doing dishes, brushing teeth, etc.
- It's important to try to conserve water as much as possible. Thank you for your help!
- Consider saving wastewater from dishes etc. in dishpan and pour under trees, instead of down the drain

WOOD RIVER RETREAT

RESTAURANTS/BAR/GROCERIES

GRANTSBURG (2 miles East on Hwy 70)

- Grocery Store: Grantsburg Family Foods, one ½ miles East on Hwy 70
- Liquor store in Minit Mart on Hwy 70 West of grocery store or at Country Store, 200 W Benson Ave
- The Grind, new coffee shop with food on Madison/downtown, *Recommended!*
- Brickfield Brewing, brew bub downtown, outdoor patio w fire pit. Frozen pizzas. *Recommended!*
- Country Café on Madison/downtown, breakfast and lunch, very local, excellent breakfast! (only open until 2 pm)
- The Drive In, 50's Diner, Hwy 70 just West (left) of Hwy 87 (Closed- looking for new owner!)
- Rendezvous Bar on Madison/downtown, typical WI bar, filled with locals, Friday night Meat Raffles (a spectacle)!
- The Red Stag, new bar on Madison/downtown (*just opened- I haven't been in there yet*)
- T Dawg's, Hwy 70 just East of Hwy 87, breakfast and dinner, Surprisingly decent food for rural WI!
- Fired Up Asian Bistro, 1.5 miles East on Hwy 70. Nice people but very mediocre food. *Not recommended.*

ALPHA (5 miles East of Grantsburg on Hwy 70)

- Burnett Co Dairy Co-op Bistro & Store, sandwiches, cheese, ready-to-bake pizza, gourmet deli items, ice cream, wine. A local favorite!
- Smoland Prairie Homestead Inn, B&B, Wine tasting, bakery, 11658 Hwy 70, 7 miles East, Call first: 715-689-2528. Located across the street from Burnett Dairy.

LUCK (about 25 miles South East on Hwy 35)

- Café Wren, Hwy 35, just before Luck, WI, 715-472-4700 www.cafewren.com
Excellent coffee, smoothies, soup, sandwiches. A beautiful drive and one of Doug's favorite places! *Highly recommended!*
- Luck Food Co-op. Main St downtown Luck. Great little food co-op but only open until 5:00 pm. Closed Sunday.

WOOD RIVER RETREAT

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Antiques/Junk Stores

- Pink Squirrel, Main St, Downtown Grantsburg. Open only one Wed–Sun a month. Great place. *Highly recommended!*
- St Croix Falls, Hwy 87 (20 miles South). Several places!
- Taylor’s Falls, MN (across the St Croix River from St Croix Falls. Several places!

Art & Crafts

- One 10 Gallery, Hwy 35, Frederick, WI Open Wed-Friday More info: one10gallery.com *Highly recommended!*
- Café Wren, Hwy 35, Luck, WI. Excellent selection of rotating artists. *Great organic café!*
- Franconia Sculpture Garden, Hwy 95, just outside Taylor’s Falls, MN. Music, events, much to see!
- Luhrs/Bjornson Artworks/Pottery, Hwy 87, Downtown St Croix Falls. Work by owners. *Highly recommended!*
- The St Croix River Valley is known for its great pottery and proliferation of pottery studios. Open studios Spring and Fall.

Farmer’s Markets

- Summer and Fall Saturdays, Hwy 87, Downtown St Croix Falls
- Franconia Sculpture Garden, Hwy 95, just outside Taylor’s Falls, MN. First Sunday, May-October from 10am-2pm

Wineries

- Chateau St Croix Winery, Hwy 87 about 5 miles N of St Croix Falls. Local music sometimes, Friday Happy Hour.
- Smoland Prairie Homestead Inn, B&B, Wine tasting, bakery, 11658 Hwy 70, Grantsburg, 715-689-2528

Brew Pub

- Brickfield Brewery, Madison St, Downtown Grantsburg. Outside firepit seating and great atmosphere!

Coffee Shop:

- The Grind, new coffee shop on Madison/downtown strip, good place with food! *Recommended!*

Bowling:

- Denny’s Downtown Lanes, Madison St, Downtown Grantsburg, Very local.

Historic Site:

- Forts Folle Avoine, an hour NE between Webster and Danbury, WI. theforts.org Worth a visit!

Scenic Drives

- East River Rd, starts about 1.5 North of St Croix Falls and goes North past Co Rd O to dead end at Grettum Dike Rd
- Co Z between Hwy 87 East to Frederick, WI
- Numerous routes from Hwy 87 East to Luck, WI
- Rustic Road drives between Co Rd O and Hwy 70
- Crex Meadows, just Northeast of Grantsburg. Nationally renowned spot for bird watching!
- Numerous others- go get lost!

(you can’t get too lost because the St Croix River is to the West, Hwy 87 or 35 to the East, Hwy 70 to the North)

WOOD RIVER RETREAT CABIN

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Hiking

- Along the St Croix River, North side of Hwy 70 just before crossing the St Croix River to MN. *Very highly recommended!*
- Raspberry Landing, Gov. Knowles State Forest, W River Rd, about 4 miles South of Hwy 70. Trail parking ¼ South.
 - from parking area go South on trail (left at trailhead) for spectacular walk high on the bluff. *Highly recommended!*
 - from parking area go North on trail (right at trailhead) to drop down to the St Croix River.
- Sandrock Cliffs Trail, Gov. Knowles State Forest, along the St Croix River 3 miles N of Hwy 70. *Very highly recommended!*
- Grettum Trail, in Fish Lake Wildlife Area on Hickerson Rd, North of Co Rd O
- Fish Lake Wildlife Area, East River Rd and Grettum Dike Rd, just North of Co Rd O
- Interstate State Park, Taylor's Fall's, MN & WI, on both sides of St Croix River. Spectacular views! *Very highly recommended!*

Biking

- Governor Knowles State Park, East River Road, just South of Hwy 70
- Gandy Dancer Trail, by Frederick and Luck, 14 miles East of cabin
- East River Rd from Hwy 87, 1 mi. North of St Croix Falls to Wolf Creek. Highly recommended road ride!

Mountain Biking

- Brandt Pines, about 4 miles North of Hwy 70, near St Croix River

Canoeing/Kayaking

- St Croix River, Nationally designated Wild and Scenic River, renowned for canoeing. Many camping spots along the river
 - I think North of Hwy 70 is much more interesting than South of Hwy 70, the further North you put in the better!
- Fish Lake Wildlife Area, Numerous kayaking options just North of Co Rd O and off of Stolte Rd
- Wood River, between Memory Lake in Grantsburg and ends in the St Croix River, just South of Hwy 70
- Wild River Outfitters, Hwy 70 near the St Croix River, canoe and kayak rentals, supplies, transportation

Bird Watching

- Crex Meadows, just Northeast of Grantsburg. Nationally renowned spot for bird watching!
- Fish Lake Wildlife Area, Stolte Rd North of Hwy O and South of Fish Lake Rd. Great place close by!

Cross Country Skiing

- Brandt Pines, about 4 miles North of Hwy 70, near St Croix River. Groomed trails, Doug's favorite x-country place!
- Governor Knowles State Forest, follow the hiking trails along the St Croix River. Not groomed.

Downhill Skiing/Snowboarding

- Wild Mountain, about 5 miles North of Taylor's Falls, MN

Rock Climbing

- Interstate State Park, by Taylor's Fall's, on both sides of St Croix River. Beginner to advanced, Good top-roping options.

Horseback Riding

- Equestrian Center, Governor Knowles State Forest, near Wolf Creek, WI
- Limitless Ranch, Frederick, WI trail rides and lessons, etc. 651-246-1323

Golf

- Grantsburg Golf Course, off Hwy 70 in Grantsburg. First time no fee!

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FAVORITE HIKES:

Governor Knowles State Forest: Along St Croix River

Beautiful well-maintained trail, easy hiking

- About 2 miles West
- Go left on Hwy 70 to just before the bridge over the St Croix River (across Hwy 70 from the campground)
- Turn right into the parking lot. (lot is not well marked but is just off the highway right before the bridge)
- Take the trail on the North side of the parking lot, close to the river
- Continue on the trail all the way to Sandrock Cliffs if desired (about 5 miles)
- Or leave a car at Sandrock Cliffs and hike back...

Governor Knowles State Forest: Sandrock Cliffs

Beautiful well-maintained trail, spectacular views!

- About 5 miles North
- Go left on Hwy 70 to first right (North) on Soderbeck Rd
- Take first left (East) on Benson Rd
- Then first right (North) at Tennessee Rd

Governor Knowles State Forest: near Raspberry Landing

Great trail along the top of the ravine with incredible views

- About 3.5 miles Southwest
- Go left on Hwy 70 to first left on W River Road
- Turn right (West) at Skog Rd to stay on W River Rd
- Go about ¼ past Raspberry Landing turnoff to parking lot
- Go straight back towards river (West) to pick up trail about 100 yards
- Go left (South) on trail along ridge (recommended) or right (North) top drop down towards St Croix River

Fish Lake Wildlife Area: Dueholm Flowage

Flat but beautiful walk along dike in wetlands

- About 8 miles South
- Go right (East) on Hwy 70 to stoplight at Hwy 87
- Go left (South) on Hwy 87 about 5 miles to Hwy 48/Grettum Dam Rd
- Go right (West) on Grettum Dam Rd to Henderson Rd
- Go left (South) on Grettum Dam Rd to Henderson Rd to Jimmy Carter Rd
- Go right (West) on Jimmy Carter Rd to parking lot on right side of road
- Follow trail West along dike, wetlands will be on the right

FAVORITE X-COUNTRY SKIING:

Brandt Pines

Easy to Advanced trails, usually (but not always) groomed

- About 8.5 miles North
- Go left on Hwy 70 to first right (North) on Soderbeck Rd
- In 3 miles go right (East) on Ferry Rd
- In about 1 mile go left (North) on Giles Rd
- Follow Giles Rd for 3 miles to Hardwood Ridge Trail, go straight (North)

Many other local ungroomed trails

WOOD RIVER RETREAT

WOODSTOVE / BONFIRES

LIVING ROOM WOODSTOVE:

- Burn only seasoned hardwoods from the woodpile
- Please use only one piece of fire-starter per fire. It works great!
- Do not burn wet or green (unseasoned) wood (too much dangerous creosote left in chimney!)
- Do not burn colored or glossy paper, plastic, treated lumber, painted or stained wood (toxins)
- You will probably have to gather your own kindling, as we cannot keep it stocked fast enough
- The wood pile next to the firewood rack often has lots of kindling
- Keep glass door closed after fire starts. Keep flammable materials cleared well away from stove.
- Push bottom lever below door *'in'* (open position) to let in more air to start fire or rekindle fire
- Pull bottom lever below door *'out'* (closed position) once fire is going, to let in less air for a longer burn
- Push top lever in for more air flow and hotter fire and pull out for longer burn time
- Run ceiling fan above woodstove on low to distribute heat
- Clean out ashes inside stove as necessary but ashes left in bottom of stove are very good for insulating the fire
- Ash bucket is on the porch. Dump ashes in compost bin not in the woods!
- Do not vacuum ashes, it clogs the vacuum filter almost immediately!
- Please replace firewood used for next guests before you leave (it's hard for my housekeeper to carry firewood)
- It would be nice to replace kindling for the next guests, since they may arrive late or it could be wet out
- There is a fire extinguisher under kitchen sink and another in the closet by the bathroom

FIREPIT:

- Please do not burn the split hardwood from the wood pile! (that is expensive wood is for the woodstove)
- There is plenty of wood to use beside the fire-pit
- It is ok to collect dead wood and kindling from the grounds
- Do not burn wet wood
- Do not burn colored or glossy paper, plastic, treated lumber, painted or stained wood (too toxic!)
- Keep fires small. Do not let it get too big as this is extremely dangerous!
- Keep a bucket of water by the fire-pit whenever you have a fire. Hose at bottom of stairs.
- Do not leave a fire unattended! Make sure your fire is completely extinguished before leaving property.
- Fire safety is critical! Thank you for your attention.

There is another firepit down the path to the river with lots of wood to burn!

CANDLES:

- Please feel free to use any of the candles left around
- Candles must be used in a candleholder or must have a dish below the candle
(my other cabin has almost burned down twice by not having something under a candle left on a wooden surface!)

WOOD RIVER RETREAT

SAUNA

There is a newly built free-standing wood-burning sauna with an attached changing room

- There is no electricity in the sauna so bring a flashlight after dark (there are windows)
- There is a solar light on the outside of the entrance to the changing room may be on (when charged)
- Do not use candles inside the sauna- they just melt!
- The sauna usually takes about 30 – 45 minutes to heat up, depending upon outside temperature
- Do not burn wet or green (unseasoned) wood! (too much smoke and dangerous creosote left in chimney)
- Do not burn glossy newsprint, plastic, green-treated lumber, painted or stained wood (all release toxins)
- The sauna needs lots of kindling to start, then smaller, shorter pieces of wood, then bigger pieces
- Use only one piece of the supplied fire-starter per fire. It works great!
- It's ok to collect dead wood and kindling from the grounds nearby- there is always lots around!
- There is specially cut split hardwood I buy for the sauna stored behind the sauna to the left
- We will try to provide dry sauna wood for you whenever possible but it's good to gather your own if possible
- There should be some sauna firewood and kindling to use on the back side of the sauna
- You will need to feed the fire more often than a home woodstove, as it burns fast!
- It's best to have a small, very hot fire in a sauna woodstove
- You will need to bring water from the kitchen in the sauna bucket if you want steam
- Ladle the water into the heated rocks on top of the sauna woodstove
- Clean out ashes inside wood stove only as necessary if they build up (usually not necessary)
- An ash-bed left in the bottom of stove is good for insulating the fire
- Leave the sauna door open into the changing room to air out the sauna after use
- Please replace the wood burned for your sauna for the next guests
- Please clean up after yourself so it's ready for the next guests!

WOOD RIVER RETREAT

LEAVING

- Check out time is noon (*if you need a later check out please try to arrange that ahead of time*)
- If you changed the thermostat by hall closet, please set to 62° (winter) or 70° (summer)
- Put used linens and towels in laundry basket in hall closet, leave blankets on bed
- Leave duvet cover on comforter (unless it needs to be washed)
- Wash dishes. Ok to leave out to dry
- Sweep floor and shake out rugs as necessary
- Make sure propane tank on grill is turned off
- Put back anything, especially furniture, outside or inside that was moved
- If you turned off the yard lights change the setting back to 4 hours after dusk
- Please replace wood burned in wood stove from firewood rack (*very hard for my housekeeper to do*)
- Make sure sauna is clean, if used
- Dump compost in cedar compost bin by firewood rack
- Leave trash and recycling in separate bins at the end of the driveway, by entrance
- Lock front door as you leave
- Please text me when you leave so I can let my housekeeper know it's ok to arrive: 651-263-2425

Thank you! I really hope you had a great visit.

-Doug