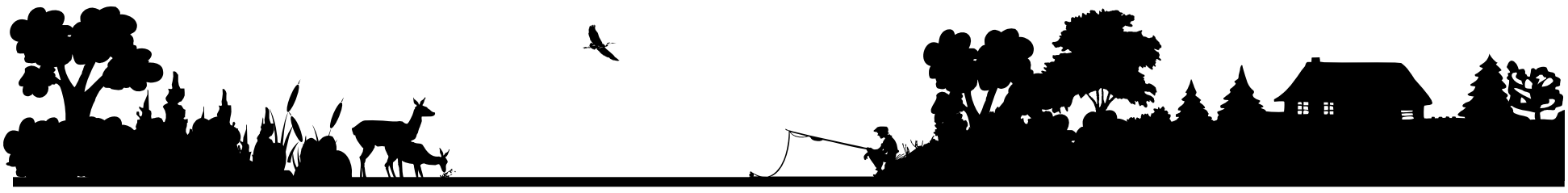


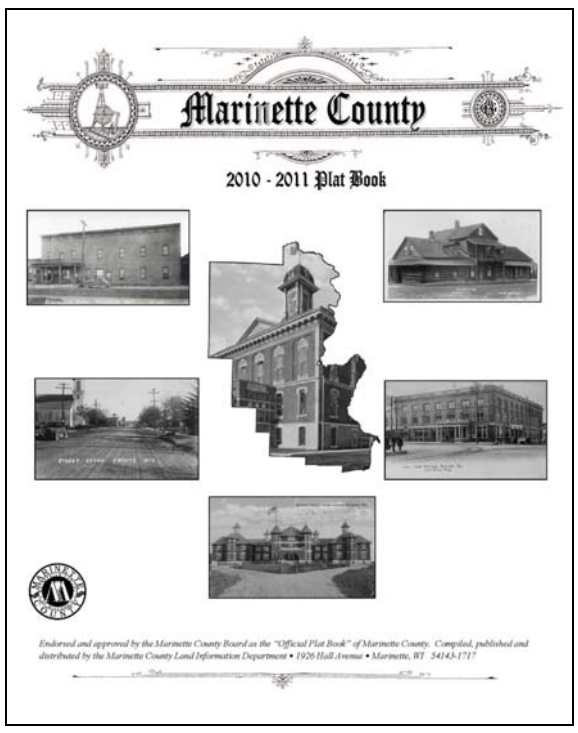
Northwoods Journal – June 2011

A Free Publication About Enjoying and Protecting Marinette County's Outdoor Life

In This Issue:

2010 LWCD Accomplishments 1
New Plat Books Available 1
Free Day at the County Parks 3
Online County Park Reservations 3
Bird Hike at Harmony Arboretum 3
Sand Lake Conservation Camp 4
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Phragmites Control Grant 5
The Pike – Marinette County's Wild River 6
Pike River Area Attractions 7
Annual Breakfast on the Farm 7
Area Events Calendar 8
Harmony Arboretum Calendar 8
Children's Learning Garden 8

Marinette County's New Plat Books Are Here!



The 2010-2011 Marinette County Plat Books are in! Come to the Land Information Office on the first floor of the County Courthouse in Marinette to get yours today. Each book costs $27. Order forms are also available online to print and mail in. There is an additional $5 postage fee for mail orders. This plat book is unique - it contains historical information from the 1912 plat book as well as current information so readers can see how the county has changed in almost 100 years. Call the Land Information Office at 715-732-7780 for more information.

2010 Land & Water Conservation Division Accomplishments

By Greg Cleereman, County Conservationist

Land & Water Conservation Division

2010 was another busy year for the Land & Water Conservation Division (LWCD). The LWCD is part of the Marinette County Land Information Department and consists of:

- *Greg Cleereman - County Conservationist* who directs and manages division activities
- *Paul Klose - Conservation Technician* who provides technical assistance to farmers working to protect water quality from runoff pollution
- *Chuck Druckrey - Water Resources Specialist* who deals primarily with lake and stream water quality protection
- *Anne Bartels - Education Specialist* who provides general environmental education as well as promotion of other departmental programs
- *Robert Ruleau - Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator* to expand and enhance efforts to control and/or prevent infestations
- *Andy Birch - Wildlife Damage Coordinator* who administers a WDNR funded program to minimize crop damage from wildlife and reimburse farmers for crop damage that does occur
- *Aleta DiRienzo - Program Assistant* who helps all other staff and performs office duties

The purpose of this article is to explain how the LWCD serves the public and describe some of the services we provide. The discussion is not meant to cover everything we do, but highlights major program areas that might be interesting to Northwoods Journal readers.

Agricultural Runoff Pollution

Phosphorus is a component of manure. Phosphorus is so important that it is often the limiting factor in aquatic plant growth. One pound of phosphorus reaching our lakes and streams can support up to 500 pounds of plants and algae. When these plants and algae die back, the process of decomposition uses up the dissolved oxygen in the water, which can result in a fish kill. Although there are also other reasons for keeping manure out of lakes and streams, reducing phosphorus levels might be the most important.

Ending winter spreading of manure has long been the focus of the LWCD. The majority of fish kills and contaminated wells around the state in recent years have occurred during winter warm spells or during the spring thaw when manure, spread on snow covered or frozen ground, reaches groundwater or lakes and streams. To keep this from happening, the LWCD helps farmers voluntarily install best management practices such as manure storage facilities and barnyard runoff control systems. Having a runoff control system

Liquid manure spill on a frozen river – photo courtesy of www.midwestadvocates.org

ensures that manure falling onto the barnyard floor is routed to the storage facility. Having a properly sized manure storage facility allows farmers to spread manure at times (late spring and fall) when it can be injected into the soil or quickly plowed under.

In 2010, the LWCD provided state cost sharing, designed practices, and supervised practice installations for eight cooperating landowners that installed:

- 2 Manure Storage Facilities
- 7 Barnyard Runoff Control Systems
- 1 Milking Center Waste Control System
- 3 Manure Transfer Systems
- 1 Subsurface Drain
- 4 Barnyard Roofs
- 3 Manure Storage Facility Roofs
- 1 Waste Treatment (Feed Leachate) Practice

Building a manure transfer line

Completing these projects ended winter manure spreading on 406 cropland acres and brings the total area of cropland, no longer winter spread with manure, to more than 41,000 acres. 446 pounds of barnyard phosphorus were routed to manure storage facilities rather than allowed to reach surface and ground water. Marinette County farmers received more than $930,000 in cost sharing for project construction. Not only was pollution prevented, but these projects support local jobs as well.

Lakes, Streams, & Invasive Aquatic Species

In the last several years LWCD efforts to assist water front property owners and control Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) have blended to the point of becoming inseparable. The invasive plants Giant Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and Eurasian Water Milfoil have been especially problematic for hundreds of

Continued next page

Accomplishments, continued

Marinette County riparian landowners. To better help local landowners and improve control of these invasive plants, the LWCD continues to build and expand partnerships with state and federal agencies, other counties, local units of government, local service groups, and private citizens.

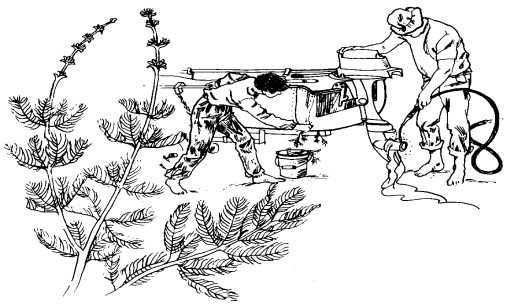
In early summer, we sponsored two *Clean Boats Clean Waters* and *Citizen Lake Monitoring Network* workshops to educate citizens of the County about the threats of AIS to our waters. The workshops also trained citizens to perform watercraft inspections, take boater surveys at boat landings and actively monitor for invasive species in and around lakes and rivers. Citizen volunteers are crucial to our prevention efforts, so thank you to those that donated time to keep our waters healthy and free of AIS. The good news is that we did not find any new Eurasian water milfoil or Zebra Mussel infestations.

Last summer, the WDNR application for an $805,000, three-year grant to fight invasive Phragmites plants along the shoreline of Green Bay was successfully funded under the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). Marinette County LWCD, along with 5 other Counties in NE Wisconsin, partnered with the WDNR and spent considerable time coordinating and helping with grant development. The LWCD has sent out Phragmites packets to over 300 affected shoreline property owners to inform them of the project and to get permission to remove invasive plants from their property. The overall goal of the project will be to restore native plant and wildlife communities along the shoreline and knock the Phragmites population down to a manageable, regular maintenance activity for landowners affected. Control activities, including aerial herbicide treatment will begin late summer/early fall of 2011.

Spraying herbicide on phragmites by helicopter

In the spring of 2010 our Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator worked with staff from University of Wisconsin-Marinette and the Marinette County UW-Extension to teach students how to use Global Positioning System equipment to map invasive species near UW-Marinette Campus. Later in the year, he began mapping the spread of Phragmites as it has moved inland, and found that many road ditches and small wetlands contain the exotic species. The mapping will be completed in 2011. Unfortunately, there is also a species of Phragmites native to Wisconsin that occurs across Marinette County, but the native version does not grow as tall, nor in the dense stands that make the exotic Phragmites such a nuisance.

This spring, the LWCD received a WDNR grant to hire two watercraft inspectors for three boating seasons. The watercraft inspectors will carry out the vision of the *Clean Boats Clean Waters* program to inform and educate the public about the threats of AIS to Wisconsin waters. The main duties of the inspectors will be to share information about AIS laws and regulations, prevention steps, and assist boaters and anglers look for invasive plants and animals on their boats and equipment at boat launches. Inspectors will be mostly working on waters that have harmful AIS like Eurasian Watermilfoil or Zebra Mussels to try and contain the spread of those species. During watercraft inspections, valuable data on boater behavior is collected to help prevent the spread of AIS in our waters.



Aquatic Invasive Species know no political boundaries. The Wild Rivers Invasive Species Cooperative (WRISC) was formed because of this fact. WRISC represents Marinette County and four other counties in Wisconsin and Michigan. The goals for the group are to work cooperatively to control AIS across jurisdictional boundaries by sharing information, experiences, and equipment. Marinette County was one of the initial partners in the formation of the group and continued to work closely with WRISC in 2010.

At the request of WDNR, Marinette County staff removed and replaced outdated invasive species signage at more than seventy boat landings across Marinette County. The "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers" signs warn about the dangers of AIS and remind boaters to check their watercraft and trailers before entering and after leaving the water.

State rules for managing aquatic plants in Wisconsin require creation of a management plan that takes into consideration the importance of native aquatic plants and the effects of plant management activities. LWCD staff completed several of these in 2009. Plant management plans for specific lakes can be found at *www.marinettecounty.com*. Just click on 'Departments'; 'Land Information', and finally 'Lake Associations'. Most of our lake projects and AIS control efforts are funded by grants received from the WDNR.

Major completed surface water projects include:

- Bagley Flowage – Conducted a rare species survey (Lake Cress) to determine effects of the previous summer's drawdown.
- Horseshoe Lake and Oneonta Lake - Assisted landowners with lake water quality issues; conducted dissolved oxygen and temperature monitoring of both. Both are ongoing efforts.
- Thunder Lake - Completed an aquatic plant survey of the lake as part of a small scale lake management planning grant; and Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) reconnaissance to determine the effectiveness of the spring 2010 chemical treatment (the treatment was not cost-shared).
- Little Newton Lake - Finished an Aquatic Invasive Species Rapid Response Grant. The grant was sought to control the initial infestation of EWM. Activities in 2010 included reconnaissance and hand pulling of isolated EWM plants (twice). The eradication effort is ongoing.
- Beecher Lake - Ongoing implementation of the EWM management plan that was ended in 2009. Activities included an EWM treatment in the spring of 2010; a follow-up summer plant survey determine effectiveness of chemical treatment; construction of the siphons and an attempt at the winter drawdown in the fall.
- Beecher Lake – Completed a boat landing design (ramp and dredging) and Dam Repair design for the Town of Beecher as well as state and federal permits for both. Successfully applied for a grant to fund the ramp and dredging.
- McCaslin Lake - Completed an APM plan to help guide their harvesting effort.
- Peshtigo Flowage - Completed an aquatic plant survey as part of their AIS education, prevention and planning grant.

Environmental Education

The original rationale for LWCD environmental education programming is found in a quote from a Senegalese Ecologist who said, "*In the end we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught.*"

We seek to help people understand and appreciate nature, in part by exposing them to outdoor activities and natural wonders. The heart of our educational programming is the *Teaching Outdoor Awareness and Discovery* (TOAD) program. TOAD started back in 2001 with a modest 26 programs delivered to1,461 individuals. In 2010, 5,308 people attended 171 TOAD programs. TOAD consists of a mobile collection of nature study and monitoring equipment that LWCD staff can bring to any location in the County. TOAD programs have been delivered to schools in every Marinette County district. Having one full set of equipment, available to all eight school districts is the smartest use of limited funds and resources. Other groups who utilize TOAD include boy/girl scouts, 4H groups, day care facilities, the YMCA and Boys & Girls Club, church groups, adult senior care facilities, and summer school/camp programs.

Hands-on wildlife materials are an integral part of TOAD

In addition to the TOAD program, we administer Harmony Arboretum, located seven miles west of the City of Marinette on County Highway E about ½ mile south of Highway 64. This 460-acre property has a prairie, an interpretive nature trail through old growth hardwoods, and a diverse native plant community. At Harmony, the LWCD works with the Northern Lights Master Gardeners Association, Chappee Rapids Chapter of the Audubon Society, Marinette County UW-Extension, WDNR and other agencies to offer recreational and educational opportunities. The centerpiece of the property is the demonstration garden, built and improved through the tireless efforts of the Master Gardeners and UW-Extension staff. The demonstration garden is never closed and can be visited whenever you like.

Among the latest projects at the Demonstration Garden is creation of the Children's Learning Garden (CLG). Its purpose is to provide an

Continued on page 6

Marinette County Parks Online Reservation/Permit System

Marinette County Parks Reservations and Fuelwood Permits available online at: http://www.marinettecounty.com/parks/

Reservations for Twin Bridges & Morgan Park Campgrounds, day use park lodge rentals, and overnight reservations for Goodman Park's Cabin can all be made at the Online Parks Reservations Website. Morgan & Goodman Parks both have large group campsites ($50/night) that are available only by reservation.

Reservations can be made 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and are accepted 11 months in advance instead of only during the calendar year. However, camping reservations have to be made for a minimum of two consecutive nights. On holiday weekends, reservations must be made for a minimum of three consecutive nights. There is a $10.00 reservation fee for camping/cabins and a non-refundable $5.00 cancellation fee for lodges/shelters.

Online reservations can also be made for any of the enclosed, solid log lodges (built in the 1930's) which are available for day use rental at Lake Noquebay, Morgan, and Goodman Parks along with an open sided shelter at Menominee River Park. The fees for each are based on the number of people using the lodge.

Lake Noquebay lodge

Fuelwood Permits for cutting firewood on County Forest land can also be purchased on the website. The Fuelwood Permit allows the cutting of downed and standing dead wood on Marinette County Forest lands. Fuelwood Permits are $20 and good for a full year after they are purchased.

For more information, please call the Parks office at (715) 732-7530.

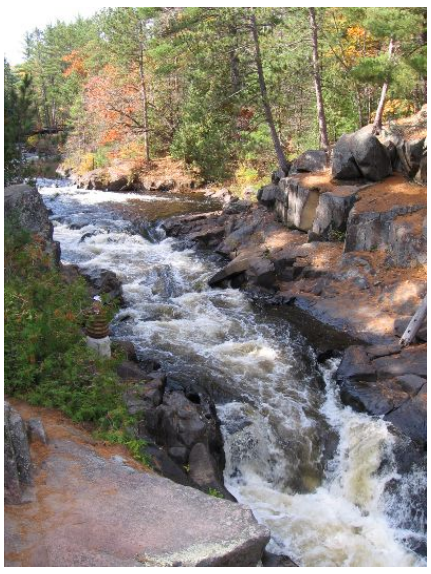
Annual Bird Hike at Harmony

Join Greg Cleereman, Marinette County Conservationist, on **Saturday, June 4**, at the Harmony Arboretum from 6:30-8:30 a.m. Learn to identify birds by sight and song and enjoy the scenery of the prairie and upland hardwoods. Over the years, about 80 bird species have been found here, including bobolink and black-billed cuckoo.

Binoculars and bird identification books will be available, but bring your own if you wish. The route is easy walking on internal trails and roads. Insect repellent is recommended. Harmony Arboretum is located seven miles west of the City of Marinette off of Highway 64, then ½ mile south on County E. For more information, call the LWCD office at 715-732-7780.

Free Day at Marinette County Parks!

All Marinette County Parks, boat landings and day use areas will have free admission on Saturday, June 4, 2011 (camping fees still apply.) Enjoy hiking, biking, canoeing and kayaking, fishing, ATVing, snowmobiling, and whitewater rafting at Marinette County parks. Or, go on the self-guided "Waterfalls Tour" - a fun, family-friendly way to get back to nature and explore the "Waterfalls Capital of Wisconsin".



Dave's Falls

Usually a daily use fee of $3 is required at park entrances. A $12 annual park sticker can be obtained from the Parks Department (camping fees are separate), located on the 3rd floor of the Marinette County Courthouse at 1926 Hall Avenue in Marinette. For maps & more information, please call the Parks office at (715) 732-7530, or visit the Parks Department online at www.marinettecounty.com.

Below are descriptions of the 6 county parks that offer camping facilities.

Twin Bridges Park, located 15 miles northwest of Crivitz, boasts the county's largest campground with 62 modern campsites all with electricity, shower/flush toilet building, a very large picnic area, playground, boating, swimming beach, fishing, and a scenic rock outcrop overlook of the High Falls Flowage on the Peshtigo River. Sites are $18.00/Site/Night. 31 sites can be reserved and 31 are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Twin Bridges Park campground entrance

Morgan Park, located in northeastern Marinette County, offers a modern campground with electricity on all 32 campsites, a group campsite available by reservation, a swimming beach and boat landing on Timm's Lake, fishing, a day use rental lodge, playground, rock outcroppings, an overlook, and a hiking trail. Sites are $15.00/Site/Night. 16 sites can be reserved and 16 sites are first-come, first-serve.

Goodman Park, located in northwestern Marinette County, offers a scenic bridge over Strong Falls and trout fishing on the Peshtigo River. It's a 15-site rustic campground (no electricity) with a group campsite available by reservation and a cabin for overnight stays, also available by reservation. There are two lodges for day use rental, a hiking-skiing trail, huge red pines, and wonderful scenery. Sites are $10.00/Site/Night.

Goodman Park scenery & bridge

Goodman Park day use area

McClintock Park, located 4 miles south of Goodman Park, features scenic rapids on the upper Peshtigo River. It offers two small day use log cabins, trout fishing, picnic spots, a small campground, and an interesting hardwood-hemlock timber stand. The 10-site rustic campground is located right along the Peshtigo River and now provides direct ATV trail access. It is the county's only ATV campground. Sites are $10.00/Site/Night.

McClintock Park campsite facing the river

Veteran's Memorial Park, located about 15 miles west of Crivitz, highlights 3 waterfalls on the Thunder River, which can be viewed at the scenic day use picnic area. There is a bridge over the upper waterfall, a pool at the bottom of the falls, trout fishing, camping, and a large day use picnic area. The campground has 15 rustic campsites, for $10.00/Site/Night.

12-Foot Falls Park, located in northern Marinette County on the North Branch of the Pike River, features 2 waterfalls (12 Foot and 8 Foot Falls), a picnic area, camping, trout fishing, and great scenery. The campground has 12 rustic campsites for $10.00/Site/Night.

The County Parks & Outdoor Recreation Department operates eleven, large "developed" parks, six small "day use" parks/waysides, seven boat landings and a youth camp.

SAND LAKE CONSERVATION CAMP

The 6th annual ***Sand Lake Conservation Camp*** will be held at Camp Bird from June 23-25, 2011. Wisconsin and Michigan Upper Peninsula youth entering 6-8th grade this fall are invited to participate. The fee is $50 ($65 after May 30) and includes room, board, and all activities and programs. Visit online at www.marinettecounty.com. ***Registration deadline is June 6 and space is limited, but feel free to call after June 6 to see if space is still available!***

Canoeing Sand Lake

Program topics include wildlife, water quality, fisheries, and forestry. Returning this year are the "camper's choice" activities, sessions campers attend in addition to regularly scheduled camp programs.

Trapping skills (above) and archery (below) are two of the "camper's choice" activities offered

Campfire building contest

Several scholarships are available for Marinette County youth through the Land & Water Conservation Division and the Marinette County and Green Bay Chapters of Trout Unlimited. For more information on how to apply for scholarships or other questions, please contact Anne Bartels, Information & Education Specialist/Camp Director by phone at 715-732-7784, or email abartels@marinettecounty.com.

Visit the **camp website** at www.marinettecounty.com – do a search for "Sand Lake" or "Conservation Camp" and the first result is the webpage.

Above & below: Catching, identifying, & studying aquatic invertebrates

Sand Lake Conservation Camp Sponsors:

- Marinette County & Green Bay Chapters of Trout Unlimited
- Coleman American Legion Post 280
- Wisconsin Public Service Foundation
- Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Division
- Wisconsin DNR & the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Camping Time!

G A B G N I P E E L S D S E B
B R R X C A I P L D C O T H A
E E C Y M O U U N R A O O C C
R Z A H R D O U D C M W O A K
O C A R G T O L A B P E B C P
L A T Y P R N N E S F R G O A
P B P N G R T U T R I I N E C
X I W P E E O O O A R F I G K
E N M S E T V O A C E C K E H
R A I N G E A R F J K Q I K A
C B I N O C U L A R S C H I T
E P A T T C U D P P F G A H C
Q D E F Y A R P S G U B M B H
S S A P M O C L A N T E R N E
S M O R E S X A L E R O G A T

In the summertime, many of us look forward to heading outside and enjoying the numerous outdoor recreation opportunities that Wisconsin and Upper Michigan offer. To introduce our outdoor summertime fun, find the following camping-related terms in the word search at left.

Backcountry	**Bearproof**
Geocache	**Backpack**
Hatchet	**Hike**
Binoculars	**Hiking boots**
Bugspray	**Lantern**
Cabin	**Map**
Campfire	**Pudgy pie**
Campground	**Rain gear**
Canteen	**Relax**
Compass	**Sleeping bag**
Cooler	**Smores**
Duct tape	**Stove**
Explore	**Tent**
Firewood	

For more information on camping visit these websites:

- http://www.lnt.org/ - Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics
- http://camping-tips.com/ - a general camping resource website
- http://www.lovetheoutdoors.com - more general camping tips & outdoor guides

Grant Funding Awarded to Help Control Invasive Phragmites Along Lake Michigan & Green Bay Shoreline

By Robert Ruleau, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator

Much needed help is on the way to battle one of the most invasive plants in the United States. Non-native *Phragmites australis*, or common reed, has spread unchecked along the shorelines of Lake Michigan and Green Bay for about a decade, impacting people who live and recreate near the water and reducing the quality of shoreline habitat for native plants and wildlife. It is found in every state in the U.S.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) is a huge investment from the Federal Government into the Great Lakes in an effort to restore and protect the largest surface system of freshwater in the world. As part of the GLRI, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will fund a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) project to control *Phragmites* along a significant portion of Northeast Wisconsin shoreline and coastal wetlands. Marinette County along with five other Counties and various conservation organizations are partnering with the WDNR to implement this large scale project.

Threat to the Great Lakes

Many call *Phragmites* the greatest threat to coastal wetland habitat in the Great Lakes and resource managers have been overwhelmed by its swift and aggressive spread along shorelines. A relatively new invader, this non-native reed grass is easy to identify reaching heights of 15+ feet with large feathery seed heads at the top. *Phragmites* has been rapidly spreading in wetlands and especially newly exposed lakebed caused by historic low water levels on the Lakes. It spreads mainly by vegetative reproduction through rhizome extension and runners that create a root system that can be 6 ft. deep and stolons that can run 50 ft horizontally. This mechanism of spread allows a few individual plants to quickly form the thick and monotypic stands that are all too

Mowed Phragmites

common in an increasing number of shoreline and inland wetland habitats.

Because of its dense and rapid growth, *Phragmites* has created a variety of negative impacts for both shoreline property owners and the native plant and wildlife community. Tall and impenetrable stands that often extend an acre or more out onto exposed lakebed block shoreline views, reduce access for activities like fishing, swimming, and boating, and can create a significant fire hazard when the plant stands dry out in winter. Native plants don't stand a chance to compete with the aggressive invasive and that's why we are seeing near mono-typic, *Phragmites* dominant stands along the shoreline. Also, birds, small mammals and other wildlife that would normally occupy this habitat have difficulty nesting and foraging for food in the thick reed stands.

Sandhill cranes (photo courtesy of Ducks Unlimited)

Phragmites Removal Project

In 2010, the WDNR was awarded $805,000 from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding to remove *Phragmites* from 118 miles of shoreline and 3,600 acres of coastal wetlands along Lake Michigan and Green Bay waters. Patches of invasive Lyme Grass impacting Lake Michigan dune systems will also targeted for removal. The project will cover 6 Northeast Wisconsin counties: Marinette, Oconto, Brown, Door, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan. 25 State natural areas, 6 State Parks, 3 State Wildlife Areas, and exposed lakebed adjacent to private property make up the diverse lands where *Phragmites* will be removed. The project partners to assist the WDNR in carrying out the project include the Marinette, Brown, Door, and Oconto Land and Water Conservation Departments; Door County Land Trust; The Nature Conservancy; The Ridges Sanctuary; and Woodland Dunes Nature Center.

Control Plan

The *Phragmites* removal project will consist of 3 field seasons from 2011 to 2013. A project coordinator has been working with the partners to develop a control/management plan, fill out necessary permitting, and calculate *Phragmites* acreage to be treated on lands in the project area. County Land and Water Conservation Departments will work with shoreline land-owners who want the plants removed. Because private property owners have exclusive use rights to the exposed lakebed below the ordinary high water mark adjacent to their property, landowners that wish to have *Phragmites* removed in the project area will have to grant the WDNR permission to perform control activities including applying herbicides. Permission and information packets were sent out to over 300 affected property owners along the bay of Green Bay in Marinette County.

In terms of control work to remove the invasive plant, the WDNR is in the process of sending out bids to private contractors so the treatments can begin late summer and early fall of this year. For the large contiguous populations of *Phragmites*, mostly along the west shores of Green Bay, treatments will include aerial application of herbicide from helicopter. For the smaller isolated patches and follow up treatments, WDNR personnel and private contractors will apply herbicide from backpack sprayers. Post treatment mowing will also be carried out to remove the dead stems.

Applying herbicide with a backpack sprayer. Photo courtesy of www.lakeleelanau.org.

Project Goal

The overall goal of this project is to restore native plant and wildlife communities along the shoreline and knock the *Phragmites* population down to a manageable, regular maintenance activity for landowners affected. **Controlling this invasive plant and informing the general public of its harm will help prevent its spread to inland areas**. Because this plant is so aggressive, it will take several years of follow-up treatment and maintenance to contain it. Full eradication is unlikely.

If you would like to learn more about this project and *Phragmites* in general, please refer to the County website at www.marinettecounty.com (Marinette County home page → Departments → Land Information → Aquatic Invasive Species). You can also contact Robert Ruleau at 715-732-7642 or rruleau@marinettecounty.com.

Useful Websites on Phragmites and the WDNR/GLRI Project

- http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/glri/
- http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/greatlakes/glri/index.htm
- http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/greatlakes/Phragmites2007.pdf
- http://www.wisconsinwetlands.org/phragmites.htm
- http://basineducation.uwex.edu/uppergb/special/shoreline/phragmites.html
- http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/deq-ogl-Guide-Phragmites_204659_7.pdf

Accomplishments, continued from Page 2

opportunity for children to learn about gardening, experience nature close up, and gain a better appreciation for the natural world. Work will continue this summer and we hope to have most of the garden's educational elements and curriculum completed by fall so schools, families, and individuals can come visit the garden for a fun, hands-on educational experience (see page 8 for more information). In cooperation with the UW-Extension office, we have raised over $5,000 in funds from both local and state organizations for the development of the CLG - donors will be recognized in a special area within the Children's Garden. Many dedicated local volunteers have also assisted with the project.

2010 Educational Highlights:

- Using LWCD canoes, we helped Peshtigo Elementary teach canoeing and kayaking skills to 184 5th and 6th graders
- Held our 5th annual Sand Lake Conservation Camp for 87 6th to 8th graders, who learned about conservation concepts and outdoor skills at Camp Bird Youth Camp
- Held four Environmental Field Days for 475 4th graders and adults, where students learned about 8 different conservation topics
- LWCD staff led five group canoe outings and six public nature programs
- Provided an extensive display at the Marinette County Fair promoting natural shoreline which featured live reptiles, amphibians, fish and aquatic insects and was visited by 2,216 people
- 200 students (K-12) from nine County schools participated in the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association Environmental Poster Contest
- Completed our 5th year of offering the *Northwoods Journal* at local businesses. About 5,000 FREE papers were distributed each month from June through September

Wildlife Damage and Abatement Program

The LWCD administers a WDNR program to reimburse participating farmers for damage from wildlife such as White-tailed Deer, Black Bear, and Eastern Turkeys. The program is partially funded by part of deer hunting license fees and bonus permit sales. For many years, Marinette County has had some of the highest rates of white-tailed deer crop damage in Wisconsin. The program also provides hunters access to agricultural lands during regular hunting seasons for species causing agricultural damage and for which the participating farmer received crop damage reimbursement. Farmers that simply want to defend their crops without receiving reimbursement can apply for shooting permits to harvest a portion of the animals that are causing damage. For high-value crops, landowners can apply for cost-sharing abatement practices such as wildlife-proof fencing.

Wildlife Damage program highlights included:

- 54 farms participated in the program, 38 of which received reimbursement for damage
- Approximately 9,965 acres were appraised for damage
- Approximately 5,580 acres were opened to public hunting
- Main crops appraised were alfalfa & corn
- In 2010 there was an increase in the amount of turkey-related crop damage, mostly through the puncturing of feed silage bags
- Marinette Co. had more crop acre damage than any other county in Wisconsin

An adjunct to the Wildlife Damage Program is the Hunt for the Hungry Program, which pays the processing costs of deer that are donated by hunters. The resulting venison is ground up and given to local food pantries for distribution to those in need. Because of the elimination of the Earn-A-Buck and a significant drop in the number of bonus doe permits, only 79 deer were donated in 2010, resulting in approximately 3,600 pounds of ground venison.

If you would like to participate in one of the Marinette County programs, need help with something not described above, or simply would like more information, please visit or call our office at the County Courthouse in Marinette at 715-732-7780.

The Pike – Marinette County's Wild River

By Chuck Druckrey, Water Resource Specialist

Here in Marinette County we are blessed with many scenic rivers having excellent water quality and good fishing, but only one is recognized in State law as a "Wild River". The Pike River is one of only five rivers in Wisconsin that have been officially recognized for their scenic beauty and protected for future generations.

Dave's Falls on the Pike River near Amberg

The Wisconsin Legislature established the *Wisconsin Wild Rivers Act* in 1965 in order to "afford the people of the state an opportunity to enjoy natural streams, to attract out-of-state visitors and assure the well-being of the our tourist industry, and to preserve some rivers in a free flowing condition and protect them from development". The original act designated three rivers, the Pike River in Marinette County and the Pine and Popple Rivers in Florence and Forest Counties. More than 40 years later, in 2009, the Totagatic River and a portion of the Brunsweiler River were added to this exclusive list.

In order to preserve the Pike in its pristine condition, all tree cutting and vegetation management is prohibited within 150 feet of the water, and limited to selective cutting within 400 feet of the water on all DNR lands. Campgrounds, roads, and any other developments are also prohibited within ¼ mile of the rivers on State owned lands. Thousands of acres of Marinette County forestland along the Pike are similarly protected under agreements with the DNR. These rules, along with an active land acquisition policy, means the Pike River will remain wild and scenic for future generations.

The Pike River originates in the forestlands of Goodman and Dunbar, and then flows southeast through Athelstane and Amberg before emptying into the Menominee River northeast of Wausaukee. Together with its many tributaries, it drains more than 175,000 acres, and almost all located within Marinette County. Its central location and dependable water supply made the Pike an important river in the logging industry that built northern Wisconsin. In the heyday of logging there were 15 dams on the Pike to harness its flow and deliver logs to sawmills in Marinette and Menominee.

Log drive – photo courtesy of Wisconsin Historical Society

Today the Pike is known for its many waterfalls, outstanding scenery and excellent trout fishing. From the headwaters of Sydney Creek to its confluence with the Menominee, the Pike falls almost 780 feet. Along its length it tumbles over and through many granite outcrops and ledges, forming numerous rapids and waterfalls. Most of the falls are located on public land and can be accessed by short walking trails.

If you want a quick tour of the falls, the largest concentration of them is found on the North Branch of the Pike along Twelve Foot Falls Road. Two of the most spectacular can be found in Twelve Foot Falls County Park. The largest and most popular falls on the Pike is Dave's Falls. Reportedly named for a logger who lost his life in a log drive here, the falls is located in Dave's Falls County Park just south of Amberg on Highway 141. The park has a footbridge over the Pike and provides a beautiful picnic area with stairs to the falls. All of the falls can be dangerous, so great care should be taken when viewing them.

For the canoe or kayak enthusiast, the Pike offers dependable flow and fabulous scenery along with some technical whitewater. The river from Highway 141 to the Menominee River is the most popular section and typically contains sufficient water for an enjoyable float. The scenery here is virtually unspoiled with attractive rock outcrops and very few cottages. Between Highway 141 and County Highway K (6.4 miles), the river has only one serious rapids called Bull Falls, a short Class II drop about a mile downstream from the put-in. The rapid is under the power lines and can be portaged on the right side of the river. Between Bull Falls and Highway K there are a few riffles and boulder gardens with lots of deep slow water. The stretch between Highway K and the Menominee River (7.1 miles) has

Continued next page

Northwoods Journal Online

Would you like to read current issues of the *Northwoods Journal* online? Go to www.marinettecounty.com and click on the link at the bottom of the page. We can even send you an e-mail reminder when each new issue is posted on our website. Please contact Anne Bartels, Information & Education Specialist, at abartels@marinettecounty.com or call 715-732-7784 for more information.

Marinette County Breakfast on the Farm

Sunday, June 26, 2011 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Rain or Shine

Hosted by Carlson Farm—Kevin & Katie Carlson

Planned Activities Include:

Full, all you can eat breakfast menu of pancakes, eggs, sausages, cheese curds, maple syrup, milk, applesauce, juice, coffee, and **ice cream!**

Learn about agriculture in our area and how a dairy farm works to provide your family's dairy products.

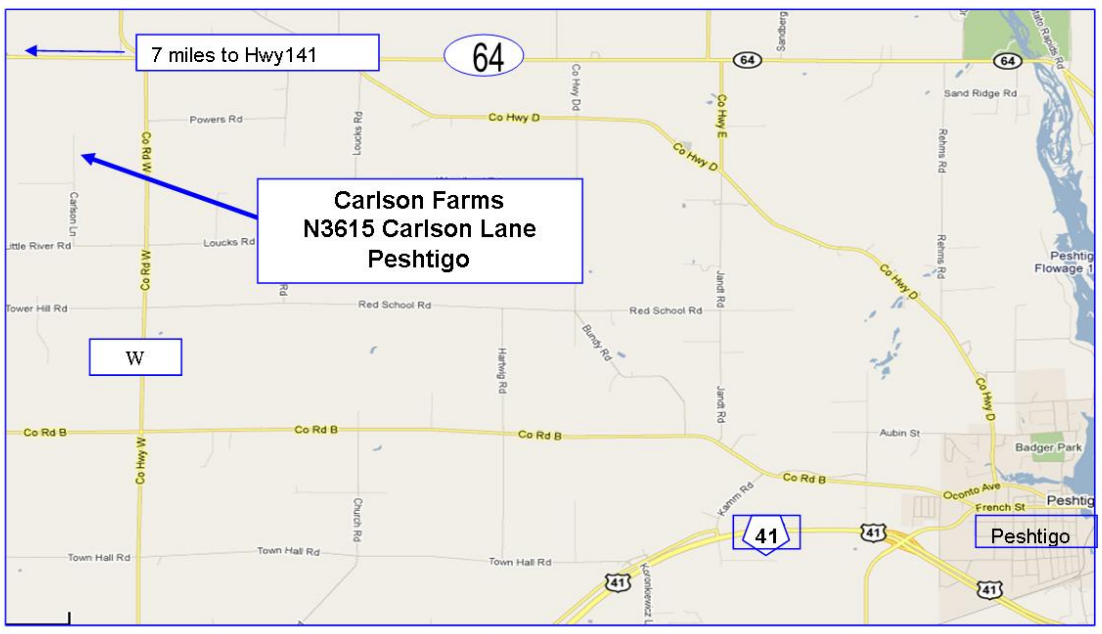
Pony Rides – Petting Zoo – Face painting - Balloons – Kids Bouncy play area - Kiddie Tractor Pull - Viewing of milking barn, calves, and heifer barns.

Adults – $6.00 Children 6-10 -$4.00
Children 5 yrs & under – FREE

Questions: Contact Scott Reuss @ 715-732-7510 or Corey Kuchta at 920-660-4182.

Kevin & Katie Carlson are the owners and managers of Carlson Farm, the host site for the 2011 Marinette County Breakfast on the Farm event. Kevin took over the west side of the farmstead from his grandpa in 1981 and started with 13 milk cows. He farmed in partnership with his father, Ron, from 1984 to 1994, milking 70 cows. Since then, Kevin & Katie have managed the farm, slowly growing to their current size.

With Kevin's father and son, Alan, they currently care for approximately 260 dairy cows and have about 260 of their home-raised heifers that they raise as herd replacements and for herd building. Two other children, Dan and Kimberly, help when extra help is needed. Facilities open for viewing that day will include the freestall barn, double-8 milking parlor, heifer facility, and machine shed. The Carlson's invite you to join them at the 2011 Marinette County Breakfast on the Farm. Come join us!



Pike River Area - Local History at Amberg

While you're in the area of the Pike River, you can learn more about the local logging history at the **Amberg Museum and Historical Complex** in Amberg. The complex includes a museum, railroad depot, old house and the town hall. The town hall, built in 1894, is listed in the National Registry of Historical Buildings. In the museum you may look and browse on your own, but in order to see the inside of the depot, house and town hall you must have a guide. The museum also highlights the importance of granite-quarrying to the area and Native American history.

The Amberg Museum and Historical Complex is located at W9289 Nutt Road, in downtown Amberg. Between Memorial Day and Labor Day they are open on weekends and holidays from 10am to 4pm, and can be reached at 715-759-5672. There is no admission fee, but free will donations are welcome.

Marinette County Waterfalls Tour

The *2011 Marinette County Visitors Guide* contains excellent driving directions and maps to help you find 14 scenic falls and rapids on the Pike, Peshtigo, Pemebonwon, and Menominee Rivers. A free Visitors Guide can be picked up at many gas stations, restaurants, motels, and other tourist establishments in the area. They are also available at the Marinette County Courthouse in Marinette. You can also call the Marinette-Menominee Area Chamber of Commerce at 715-735-6681 or visit online at *www.mandmchamber.com*.

The Pike, continued

several Class II rapids and a serious Class III rapid just below the Barker Road Bridge. A DNR takeout with parking can be found just before the bridge if you wish to avoid this drop known locally as Yellow Bridge Falls.

The more adventuresome paddlers may wish to explore the Pike River upstream from Dave's Falls. Both the north and south branch are navigable by small boat for many miles upstream from their confluence. The north branch is reportedly navigable as far upstream as Carney Rapids on Old County A and the south branch below Horseshoe Falls. If you attempt the upper river, avoid periods of low water and be prepared for occasional downed trees and other obstructions. Throughout the upper river you will find many unnamed rapids along with the above-mentioned falls.

Photo courtesy of NRCS

For the angler, the Pike River contains 123 miles of Class I trout stream with a self-sustaining brook trout population. More than 60 miles of Class II and III trout water also support native fish brown trout, which are stocked annually. Along its length the DNR has developed numerous access points with parking and well-worn paths to the river. Many miles of the Pike and its tributaries are also located on Marinette County forestland. While exploring these areas, a Marinette County plat book or outdoor recreation map is valuable for navigating the numerous forest roads and determining where private land is located (see page 1 for more information on the 2010-2011 Plat Books).

So hop in the car and take the waterfalls tour or grab your fishing pole and explore the Pike River - you will soon see why it is one of only five streams in Wisconsin to be recognized as a "Wild River".

Northwoods Journal
Volume 9, Issue 1

The *Northwoods Journal* focuses on various outdoor recreation opportunities and local environmental topics to inform readers about natural resource use, management, and recreation in Marinette County.

Published in cooperation by:
- Marinette Co. Land & Water Conservation
  Marinette Co. Parks & Outdoor Recreation
- University of Wisconsin-Extension

UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA. To ensure equal access, please make requests for reasonable accommodations as soon as possible prior to the scheduled program. If you need this material in another format, please contact the UW-Extension office at 715-732-7510.

Please send comments to:
Marinette County LWCD
1926 Hall Ave, Marinette, WI 54143
abartels@marinettecounty.com

Area Events Calendar

June-August **Bands at Badger Park**. Free musical entertainment, starts at 6:30p.m. Concerts held Wednesday evenings with concessions available at 5:15pm. Scheduled dates: June 8, June 22, July 13, July 27, August 10 & August 24th. Call 715-582-1141 for more information.

June-August **Sunset Concert Series**. Free concerts at 7pm, Tuesday evenings on Stephenson Island in Marinette and Thursday evenings at the Great Lakes Memorial Marina Park Bandshell in Menominee, MI. Sponsored by Marinette-Menominee Area Chamber of Commerce. For further info, contact Joe Plautz, 715-735-6681.

June 4 **Feather & Fur Swap Meet**. Peshtigo Feed Mill, 8am-12noon. Swap small animals, birds, rabbits, pets & livestock. Buy-sell-trade. Free admission, buyers bring your own cages. For more information call Joe or Sharon at 715-582-3679, Mary or Doug at 906-753-4153, or Sandi at 715-735-7120.

June 4 **Free Parks Day.** All Marinette County Parks, boat landings and day use areas will have free admission on Saturday, June 4 (Camping fees still apply). For more information please call the Marinette County Parks Office at 715-732-7530.

June 4 **Free Fishing Weekend.** State residents and nonresidents of any age can fish anywhere in Wisconsin without a license on June 4 and 5. All other fishing regulations still apply. Rods and reels available to anglers at 50 agency locations - please call ahead to make sure equipment is available and to arrange to pick it up. For more information call Greg Kornely, DNR, at 715-582-5010.

June 5 **Gov. Thompson State Park Open House -** 10am-2pm. Free admission, explore 16 miles of trails & fish on inland lakes or Caldron Falls Flowage. The Friends Group will sponsor a luncheon cookout at the new shelter and be available to help visitors with questions; for more information call 715-757-3979.

June 10-12 **Copperfest.** Ner Park in Oconto. Fabulous weekend of family fun! Live music, entertainment, food and refreshments. Friday - kick off breakfast 6-8:30am. Saturday - street market, parade, horseshoes, flag football & dodgeball tournaments, trout pond, kids inflatables. Fireworks end the day of fun! Sunday - old-fashioned ice cream and pie social at the Beyer Home Museum (adjacent to Copperfest grounds). For more information call 834-6254 or toll free 1-888-626-6862.

June 11-12 **Free Fishing Weekend in Michigan**. Two days twice a year, families and friends can enjoy one of Michigan's premiere outdoor activities, Michigan Fishing, for FREE! All fishing license fees will be waived for two days. Residents and visitors may enjoy fishing on both inland and Great Lakes' waters for all species of fish. All other fishing regulations still apply. Call 906-228-6561 for more information.

June 11-19 **29th Porterfield Country Music Festival.** Nashville Recording Stars at Green's Green Acres, 6 miles west of Marinette just off Hwy 64. Local entertainment June 11 -19, gates open at 9am. Ticket prices prior to 5/1/11 $115 or $65 daily pass with camping available on grounds. For more information call 715-789-2207 or Marinette-Menominee Area Chamber of Commerce 800-236-6681 or visit www.countrymusicfestival.com for updates.

June 18 **Meet the Fleet** at M&M Yacht Club, Menominee MI. 10am-4pm, take free boat rides on both power and sail boats. Call Nestegg Marine at 715- 732-4466 for reservations.

June 24 **Kids' Fishing Derby.** 8am-12pm at Stephenson Island with awards and prizes in many categories, co-sponsored by Marinette County Trout Unlimited. Participants should provide their own tackle and bait. No charge but pre-registration is required at the Civic Center. Open to children ages five and up. Younger children may participate with a parent. Phone registrations not accepted, but for more information call 715-732-5222.

June 26 **16th Annual Art for All.** Great Lakes Memorial Marina in Menominee, MI, 10am-4pm. One day juried art show and sale.

June 26 **BAMC Menominee River Century Bike Ride**. Registration is June 25/3-6pm and June 26/7-10am. Routes are15km, 40km, 80km, 120km and 160km (special 30th anniversary century mile route), all leave from Marinette High School, Pierce Avenue, Marinette, WI. Ride is brought to you by Bay Area Medical Center. For more information or registration forms call Marinette Menominee Area Chamber of Commerce at 715-735-6681 or www.mrcride.com.

July 3-4 **Area 4th of July Celebrations**. Marinette, Crivitz, Goodman, Wausaukee, Amberg. For more information, call the local city hall or visit the county calendar at www.marinettecounty.com. You can also call the Wisconsin Welcome Center, located by the Stephenson Library in Marinette, at 715-732-4333.

Harmony Arboretum Schedule of Events

Located seven miles west of the City of Marinette off of Highway 64, then ½ mile south on County E. *All programs are free and at Harmony Arboretum unless otherwise stated.* For more information, call UW-Extension at 715-732-7510 or Land & Water Conservation at 715-732-7780.

May 28: Tomato Management - 10:00 am to noon – UW-Extension Horticulture Agent, Scott Reuss, will show you the best techniques for transplanting, trellising, mulching, improving soil fertility and general management of tomatoes. This is the first of a series of four programs highlighting tomatoes.

June 4: Native Plants - 10:00 am to noon - There are many benefits to having native plants on your property. Linda Warren and Adrian Konell will be at Green Thumb Garden Shoppe, Crivitz, to tell you how to get started and how to maintain these plants. Find out which would do best for you and which are the best ones for attracting butterflies and beneficial insects to your yard.

June 4: Bird Hike - 6:30 to 8:30 am
See page 3 sidebar for more details

June 7: Strawberry Management - 6:30 pm start
Learn the best management practices for growing your own strawberries. Scott Reuss, UW-Extension Horticulture Agent, will discuss varieties, soils, insects, diseases, and techniques needed to get the best crop of fruit from your plants.

June 22: Blueberries & Saskatoons - 6:30 pm start
Saskatoon are also commonly called Juneberries. There are many varieties of blueberries and saskatoons that will grow well in our area. Scott Reuss, UW-Extension Horticulture Agent, will discuss variety selection, soil management, pruning, and pest management principles to maximize plant health, and fruit yield.

June 28: SALAD DAZE! - 6:30 pm start
The UW-Extension horticulture team of Scott Reuss and Linda Warren are this year featuring "all things salad" in the vegetable growing area at Harmony Demonstration Gardens. From Arugula to (New) Zealand spinach; it's all to be viewed and tasted during Tuesday night's Salad Daze. Ever had "strawberry spinach" - it will be there, stop by and try it!

Update - Children's Learning Garden at Harmony Arboretum

The Children's Learning Garden (CLG) at Harmony Arboretum provides visitors an opportunity to explore and observe nature in a unique, exciting, and educational manner. The experiential nature of the garden encourages visitors to "get their hands dirty" while learning and having fun. We started work on the CLG last summer and started installing individual elements, but we have a lot more to do! This summer work will continue on the CLG with the help of dedicated & hard-working volunteers. The focus this summer will be completing the "underground tunnel" display and working on other parts of the CLG. Below is a sketch of the mural for the front of the tunnel structure. Local artist Barbara Kane Anderson designed the mural and will be painting it onto the structure – all 36 feet of it! Upon entering the tunnel, visitors will become part of the underground world and see up close what goes on underground and learn about its inhabitants. The tunnel project should be competed by fall. Interested in helping at the CLG? Please call Linda at UW-Extension, 715-732-7510.