

# Northwoods Journal – August 2010

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

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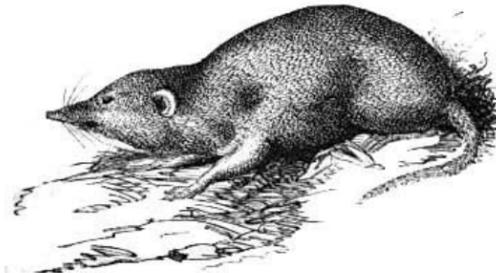
## *Prairie Walk at the Harmony Arboretum*

Ever wonder what kinds of flowers live in the prairies and grasslands of Wisconsin? Come join Marinette County staff on a guided hike through the Harmony Arboretum prairie on **Thursday, August 5 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** to learn more about our native prairie ecosystems and the plants and animals that live there. This is a free public program. For more information, see the Harmony Arboretum Calendar on page 8 or call the Land & Water Conservation office at 715-732-7780. Harmony Arboretum is located 7 miles west of Marinette, ½ mile south of State Highway 64 on County Road E.



## **As Shakespeare Knew, You Just Can't Tame a Shrew!**

This month's installment in the three-part series on small mammals of Marinette County will focus on shrews. Members of this group are among the most common creatures of Wisconsin forests. They are not rodents; rather, they are commonly referred to as insectivores and are grouped with moles in the order *Soricomorpha* (previously *Insectivora*). Shrews are carnivorous, focusing generally on insects but also eating small rodents, amphibians such as salamanders and toads, even minnows. They are most active at night and often do most of their foraging underground or under leaf litter.



Despite this, shrews have functional eyes, though they are not critical for hunting or travel. Their more important senses are hearing, smell, and touch. Shrews have disproportionately large snouts and long "whiskers" called *vibrissae* that are highly sensitive to touch. Their large snouts also allow for an acute sense of smell, very useful in detecting buried food such as grubs. Despite having barely visible ears, shrews' hearing is well developed. As a rule, shrews don't communicate with sound, and the inconsequential squeaks and whistles they make can't be heard for more than a couple feet. They do send messages via scent glands located on their flanks. The glands are used to attract mates or mark territorial boundaries. The musky odor is also thought to deter some predators that find the odors offensive.

Although shrews are often lumped in with mice when seen in the field, they have several distinguishing characteristics to separate them from rodents. Compared to mice and voles, the shrew's muzzle is much more conical and extended. They also have much shorter fur and smaller eyes. However, the most obvious difference is the shrew's seeming lack of ears. Last of all, shrews have five front toes versus four on small rodents.

Six species of shrews are known to inhabit Wisconsin. The shrews of Marinette County prefer moist or wet environments that have dense herbaceous cover or a thick layer of leaf litter. Shrews are not likely to be found in grazed, mowed, or plowed areas. The following species descriptions are for the five species found in Marinette County.

 The Pygmy Shrew is about 2-3" with a 1" hairy tail. It is brown to gray above with a light gray to silver belly. Its habitat is coniferous forests, sphagnum bogs and brushy fields.



*Pygmy Shrew with insect*

 The Northern Short-tailed Shrew is 3-4" with a .75-1" tail. It is an overall dark gray with small pink feet and a nearly naked tail. Prefers a wide variety of habitats such as moist deciduous and coniferous forest, fields and meadows, yards and gardens.



*Northern Short-tailed Shrew*

 The Arctic Shrew is 4-5" with a 1-1.75" tail. Tricolored brown, light brown, and gray body distinctive in adults. Brown tail above, pale below. Lives in wetlands, moist grassy areas, and coniferous forests.



*Arctic Shrew, photo by Phil Myers*

 The Water Shrew is our largest at 4-5" with a 2-3" tail. Dark brown to black with a bright white belly. Lives around lakes, bogs, streams, and ponds.



*Water Shrew with tadpole*

 The Masked Shrew is 1.75-2.25" with a 1-2" tail. Overall brown body with lighter gray to white belly. Tail is brown above and lighter below with tuft of hair at the tip.

*Continued next page*

*Shrews, continued*

Masked Shrew, photo by Roger W. Barbour

Although wolves are commonly thought of as our fiercest predators, the title should really go to shrews. With the fastest heartbeat and metabolism of any vertebrate animal, shrews eat nearly their own weight in food every day or they may starve to death in less than a day. The highest recorded shrew heart rate was 1,511 beats per minute (BPM). The average BPM was 835, or more than 11 times faster than humans. Wolves, however, often eat as little as once a week, averaging out to less than 5% of their body weight per day. And although both wolves and shrews take on prey as large as or larger than themselves, shrews don't get the help of a pack. They are solitary hunters. Some shrews, if they capture more than they can eat, will cache their prey and return to it later.



Northern Short-tailed Shrew feeding

Our most common shrew, the Northern Short-tailed Shrew, is also unique among the mammals of North America in that it is venomous. It does not inject venom like a rattlesnake, but delivers poisonous saliva down a trough in the lower incisors, which they use to chew the toxin into the prey. The toxins do not kill right away but paralyze mouse-sized victims. If bitten, humans may experience swelling and irritation at the bite. The Short-tailed Shrew also uses echolocation, like bats, to detect obstacles and perhaps prey. They emit high frequency sounds and listen for returning echoes.



Range of the Northern Short-tailed Shrew, our most common shrew in Marinette County

The Water Shrew also has an interesting adaptation to its aquatic habitat that allows it to literally "walk on water". Its feet are large and have a stiff fringe of hairs on the outer edge and between toes, and the back feet are partially webbed. This combination allows the Water Shrew to run across calm pools of water up to five feet wide without getting wet.



Note the fringe on this Water Shrew's feet that allows it to "walk on water"

Water Shrews can stay submerged up to 48 seconds while they probe for aquatic insect nymphs. They have to work at staying under water. Their dense fur holds a lot of air that makes them look silvery while under water and causes them to bob to the surface like a cork.



Diving Water Shrew

Shrews of all species feed predominantly on insects and their larvae. In doing so, they are often quite beneficial to people by eating what might otherwise become pests. As stated above, shrews will eat mice and voles, but also other shrews, snakes, salamanders, and even fish. Some species are active in short bursts both day and night while others have feeding peaks around dawn and dusk. The Northern Short-tailed Shrew seems to be very active in five-minute spurts, followed by longer rest periods. The activity periods total about four hours per day.

Despite its fierceness, all species of shrews are very short lived, even in captivity. The longest recorded life span in captivity is 33 months. By comparison a captive Deer Mouse lived eight years. In the wild, shrews rarely make it to eighteen months. In one study of Northern Short-tailed Shrews only 6% of animals marked and released one summer were alive next year. Depending on the species, shrews are eaten by many other mammals, hawks, owls, snakes, and in the case of water shrews, even trout. Shrews are thought to have difficult times dealing with harsh winters and succumb to cold stress.

To make up for the high rates of mortality, shrews are fairly prolific breeders. Females can become sexually mature in as little as two months. Once again, depending on the species, females give birth to 1-3 litters of 2-8 young per year. They breed from early spring to early fall. Gestation takes from 18-22 days and pups are typically weaned in about 25 days. Shrews build hollow nests of leaves and grass under rocks and fallen trees. Sometimes the nests are lined with the fur of deceased prey.

Except for breeding, the shrews of Marinette County are solitary. When shrews meet in overlapping territories they sometimes fight to the death. The population densities for most species are quite low. They range from less than one Pygmy Shrew per acre up to an average of 6 Northern Short-tailed Shrews per acre. The Short-tailed Shrew is a bit of an anomaly among

shrews in that under exceptional circumstances, their population can reach 80 individuals per acre. Most shrews spend their entire lives in territories of less than one acre.



Northern Short-tailed Shrews acting 'shrewish'

Although seldom seen by people because of their tendency to travel under ground or under leaf litter and vegetation, shrews are a common and important part of the ecosystem in Marinette County. As predators of invertebrates, shrews are important to forest health. For example, European research into the Eurasian Shrew found they ate more than 44,000 Winter Moth larvae per acre. The Winter Moth is a major defoliator of oak trees in Europe. As prey, shrews are important sources of food for many small to medium predators. In any case, shrews are interesting creatures that are a worthy part of our north woods.

This article is largely based on the books Mammals of the Great Lakes by Allen Kurta and Mammals of Wisconsin by Stan Tekiela. For more information about North American shrew species, visit:

- <http://www.extension.org/pages/Shrews> - WI UW-Extension information about shrews
- <http://www.mnh.si.edu/mna/> - Smithsonian Institution North American Mammals website
- <http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/National-Wildlife/Animals/Archives/2009/The-Maiming-of-the-Shrew.aspx> - National Wildlife Federation's Ranger Rick magazine article
- <http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/National-Wildlife/Animals/Archives/2010/Americas-Smallest-Mammal.aspx> - National Wildlife Federation's Ranger Rick magazine article
- <http://icwdm.org/handbook/mammals/Shrews.asp> - Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management
- <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/wnrmag/html/stories/2003/oct03/shrew.htm> - Water Shrew article

*Northwoods Journal Online*

Would you like to read current issues of the *Northwoods Journal* online? Go to [www.marinettecounty.com](http://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 Warren, Information & Education Specialist, at [awarren@marinettecounty.com](mailto:awarren@marinettecounty.com) or call 715-732-7784 for more information.



## Area Farmers & Flea Markets



### **Marinette Main Street Farmers Market.**

June 8 – Oct. 29. Tuesday & Friday, 7am to noon or sell out (Saturdays optional). At Merchants Park, corner of Main & Wells Streets in Marinette. Call Denise at 715-732-5139.

### **Downtown Menominee Farmers Market.**

Timeless Treasures Antique Mall, 902 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Menominee MI. May 22 – October 9th. Saturday market from 9am-1pm, and Thursday market from 3-6pm. Call Lucy at 906-863-8718 for more info. Visit online at <http://www.culinate.com/market/MenomineeHistoryFM>.

### **Crivitz Flea & Farmers Market.**

May 27 – Sept. 2, 8am-4pm located at St. Mary's Parking lot across from the Crivitz Village Hall at 800 Henriette Avenue, Crivitz. Interested in participating contact Jean at 715-854-2030.

### **Crivitz Farmers Market - Green Thumb Garden Shoppe.**

July 10 – Sept. 25, Saturdays 9am-1pm. Corner County Hwy A and Mira Ave in Crivitz. Visit <http://crivitzfarmersmarket.com> for more info.

### **Wausaukee Area Farmers Market & More**

June 5 – October 2, 9am-2pm, first Saturday of the month. Located one block east of Main Street.

### **Stephenson – Flea Markets at Erickson Park.**

July 10, August 7, & September 4. Flea markets at Erickson Park, Stephenson, MI. Proceeds benefit the Stephenson High School athletic program.

## Peshtigo River Trail Paddle Trip

Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Come enjoy a leisurely paddle down the Lower Peshtigo River from the City of Peshtigo boat landing to the County Rd. BB boat landing. Bring your own canoe/kayak or use one of our canoes (limited supply of 6 canoes – call to reserve a canoe starting August 30 at 9am). Youth under 18 must be accompanied by an adult, and you must provide your own snacks, water, etc. Registration is free, but the city of Peshtigo may charge a \$3 launch fee at the put in point. To register, reserve a canoe, or for more information about the event, please call the Land & Water Conservation office at 715-732-7780.

## 2010 Environmental Awareness Poster Contest!

By Aleta DiRienzo, Database Specialist/Program Assistant

Every fall the Marinette County LWCD, with the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association, sponsors the Environmental Poster Contest for school-aged children in Wisconsin. Subject matter is of an environmental awareness topic or about conservation of natural resources such as soil conservation, water quality, air, wildlife, and forestry as related to Marinette County or Wisconsin. **Poster participants are encouraged to use the Soil Stewardship theme of "Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats".**



### **Theme Information**

Each of us can be good stewards of our natural resources at our home and in our communities. When we think about protecting and managing our natural resources, we can provide healthy habitats for the ecosystems on our planet. Each of us can make a difference by starting in our own backyard, our school or in our community.

What is **conservation**? *Conservation is careful management of the environment and our natural resources.* A habit is something we do without thinking about it. Some habits are not good, like throwing litter out of a car window. Some habits are good, like recycling. Develop conservation habits so that it becomes second nature.

What is **habitat**? *A habitat is the place where something lives because it is adapted to find food, water, shelter, and space.* It could be a plant, animal or other small organism. People, plants and animals need a place to live and food to eat. Wherever you are, you are in a habitat. Habitats are all over, you can find them in forests, grasslands, deserts, wetlands, arctic tundra as well as right outside your backdoor!



**Please visit the following website to learn more about Conservation habits = Conservation Habitat.**

<http://www.nacdnet.org/education/contests/poster/#2010>



First place winners of the county contest will be entered in the Lake Michigan Area Land & Water Conservation (LMLWCA) Area Contest in October 2010. The first place winners in the area contest will be entered in the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) State Contest in November 2010. The first place winners of the state contest, who qualify by using the Stewardship Theme, will be entered in the National Association of Conservation Districts contest. **If you want to be entered into the national contest, you must use the Stewardship theme.** Prizes will be awarded to the first three places in each division in the contest at the county, area and state level.

### **Contest Divisions are:**

- Primary - Students in Grades K-1 during the school year
- Elementary - Students in Grades 2-3 during the school year
- Middle - Students in Grades 4-6 during the school year
- Junior - Students in Grades 7-9 during the school year
- Senior - Students in Grades 10-12 during the school year.

Posters must be returned to the Land Information Department – 1926 Hall Avenue – Marinette WI 54143-1717 by **Friday, October 8, 2010**. **Posters must have an entry blank attached to the back of the poster to be eligible for area and state contests.** For an entry blank and a copy of the rules, please call Aleta DiRienzo at (715) 732-7780 or visit the Marinette County website at [www.marinettecounty.com](http://www.marinettecounty.com).



## Come visit us at the Marinette County Fair!



Visit our educational displays at the Marinette County Fair August 26-29<sup>th</sup> at the Wausaukee Fairgrounds! The Education Area is co-sponsored by the Marinette County UW-Extension, Land & Water Conservation, and the Parks Department. The Education Area is located inside the main Exhibit Building. Explore the displays, pick up brochures or maps, and visit with department staff for questions or concerns you may have.



The "Fisherman's Frontage" Display with live fish

Returning this year is the "Herptile Habitat" display, featuring live reptiles and amphibians. Herptiles are crucial to the food web, and act as "biological indicators" to help determine the health of wetland habitats. Various species of amphibians and reptiles will be on display. Visitors will get a close-up look at the critters that help regulate pest populations, provide food for other animals, and add to the beauty and mystique of our Northwoods home.



Gray Treefrog, one of our 'guests' at the fair

If you have any questions about UW-Extension, Land & Water Conservation or the Parks Department, stop by the Education Area, or contact UW-Extension at 715-732-7510; Land & Water Conservation at 715-732-7780; and Parks at 715-732-7530.

## New Aquatic Invasive Species Signs at Boat Landings

If you have been out on the lakes or rivers recently, you may have noticed new signs on some of the public boat landings in Marinette and surrounding Wisconsin counties. This is the latest state-wide effort to try and contain and slow the spread of harmful aquatic invasive species (AIS) in our waters. The new signs reflect State AIS regulations that now require boaters to remove all aquatic plants and drain water from equipment *before launching* and *before leaving* the landings. These basic preventative measures will help to curtail the introduction and spread of AIS. For now, the priority landings that will have the new signs are located on the waters that are known to contain populations of some of the more harmful AIS including; zebra mussels, Eurasian Watermilfoil, VHS fish disease, spiny waterflea and curly leaf pondweed. That means 65 public boat landings in Marinette County will have new signs put up this month. According to the WDNR, the goal in the next few years is to post signs on every boat landing in the state.



New AIS sign posted at 65 boat landings

Marinette County waters have been hit particularly hard by the harmful aquatic plant Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) and pesky zebra mussels. They can be found in Green Bay, Lake Noquebay and sections of the Menominee and Peshtigo Rivers. At least 20 waters in the county contain populations of EWM and there has been a lot of effort by the Land and Water Conservation Division to prevent and control those populations. EWM has been such a successful invader because of its ability to spread via small plant fragments. Unfortunately, these small fragments are often transported from one water body to another when they get attached to boats and trailers. Once introduced in a water body, a single plant fragment can take root and form a new colony.



Eurasian Watermilfoil

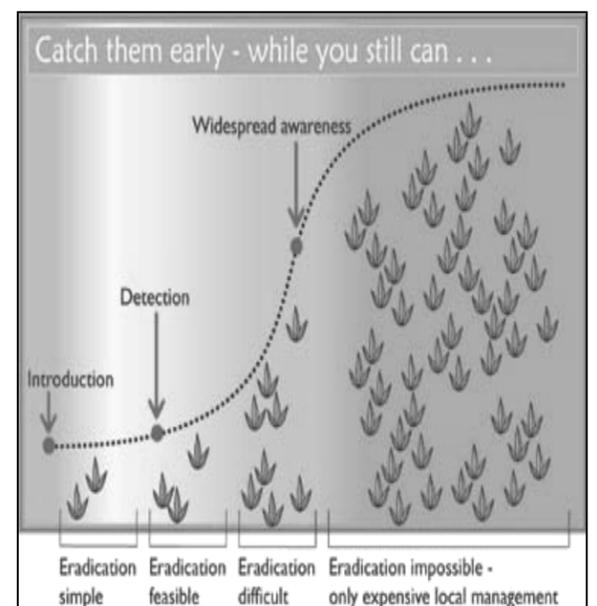
EWM out-competes native aquatic plants and forms a tangled mess of dense underwater beds and thick surface mats that reduce habitat quality and hinder recreational activities like boating, fishing and swimming. There are 7 native watermilfoils found in Wisconsin and many other aquatic plants that look similar to EWM if not looked at closely, so it is important to remove all vegetation from the equipment to be sure the invasive does not get spread.

Zebra mussels have been a menace in the Great Lakes for the past 20 years and are increasingly being spread to inland waters as microscopic larvae (known as *veligers*) and adult stages. The nearly invisible free-swimming veligers can survive and be transported in the bilge, motor and live well waters in the boat, and can also easily attach to the hull, trailer and even aquatic plants on the trailer. Once zebra mussels become established, they filter tremendous amounts of plankton - an important base of the aquatic ecosystem for young fish - and other native aquatic organisms. Less plankton in the water means less for native species to eat, creating an unbalanced ecosystem. Because they filter so much plankton, the water becomes clearer - this is a major misconception of a water body being healthier.



Zebra mussels on an aquatic plant

Zebra mussels have also caused many problems for people. When they die and wash up on shore, their razor-sharp shells can cut the feet of beachgoers. Because they attach to virtually any hard surface, they clog up water intake and other industrial pipes and have been known to damage boat motors. Industry in the Great Lakes region has spent hundreds of millions of dollars just to keep the invasive mussels in check because removing them completely is impossible. **Although eradication may be nearly impossible with the zebra mussel and other aquatic invasive species once they are established in a water body, preventing their spread to waters that are free of invasives is achievable and ultimately up to us, the water users.**



Graphic courtesy of the Nature Conservancy

Continued next page



## Who you Gonna Call? Marinette County Welcomes New 4H Youth Agent



Hi! My name is Lisa Devine-Barribeau and I am excited about working as Marinette County's new 4-H Youth Development Educator. Marinette County has so many beautiful natural resources and friendly, enthusiastic people.

My husband Mitch and I just moved into a house on the Bay. We have 3 children (in their teens and twenties) and a cat named Lou. I enjoy boating (all kinds), traveling and exploring, walking and biking, art, and making and trying new foods. I consider myself a "lifelong learner" who loves to take classes and learn new things. Something I want to get better at is using different kinds of technology.

My bachelor's degree is in Interdisciplinary Studies with minors in Human Development and Women's Studies. My master's of science degree is in Applied Leadership for Teaching and Learning. I have been working with Oconto County UW-Extension for 14 years in both the Family Living and 4-H Youth Development programs. Some of my youth-related responsibilities included coordinating programs like teen court, a youth mentoring program and a theater improv troupe that created skits on youth issues.

4-H has always been a big part of my life. As a young person I participated in 4-H and later served as a project leader, Adventure Camp Director, and judge. Some of the skills I have today I know were built through my involvement in 4-H.

I'm eager to meet each and every one of you and hear your ideas about 4-H and other youth programming. I look forward to partnering with you in continuing to improve and expand our 4-H programs along with creating some new opportunities for youth.

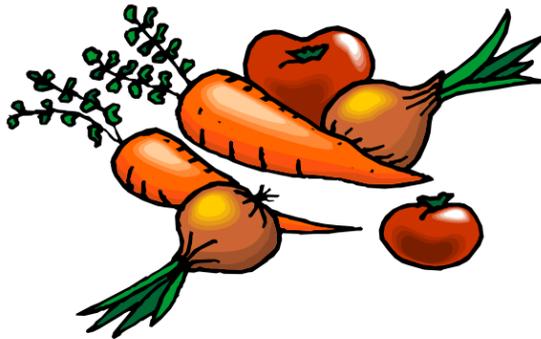


Contact Information:  
Phone: 715-732-7517  
[lbarribeau@marinettecounty.com](mailto:lbarribeau@marinettecounty.com)

## Donating Produce to Food Pantries

By Scott Reuss, Agriculture/Horticulture  
Agent, UW-Extension

As we approach full-speed fruit and vegetable season, most of us start wondering about what we are going to do if everything gets ripe all at once, or how many pickings of green beans we can eat, freeze, or can before we don't want to look at them anymore. Whether you have extra fruits and vegetables because you are a typical gardener that planted too much, or because of timing issues or other reasons, please consider donating any extra produce to one of your local food pantries.



Most area food distribution points are able to accept home gardeners or farm-grown fruits and vegetables, although many of them have specific days for delivery, due to lack of storage. The list below is current and accurate, but don't be afraid to call prior to delivering your produce.

Wherever it is that you are going to take extra produce, please remember to practice good harvesting, sorting, and cleaning principles so that your donations will be able to be used to their highest potential. The following general steps will lead to the highest quality and best nutrition value remaining in fruits and vegetables for your own use or to be donated.

- 🗑️ Pick produce just prior to, or at, proper harvest stage for the species you are harvesting. A complete listing of hints on proper staging can be found in the UWEX publication "Harvesting Vegetables from the Home Garden" which you can find at <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/pdf/A2727.pdf> or get a copy from the UW-Extension office. Immature fruits or vegetables will not have full flavor, nor will they have full vitamin content. Over-mature produce will not store very well, so can become wasted material (i.e. compost).
- 🗑️ Harvest produce as soon as possible prior to being able to drop it off. Many fruits and vegetables can decrease quality or flavor fairly quickly after harvest if not stored properly. And, as mentioned, many food pantries do not have enough cold storage to store produce, so do really try to drop it off on the days that they are able to distribute it.
- 🗑️ Prepare and select produce as you would your own. Wash off extra soil, but then air-dry or towel dry so that extra water is not present. Clipping off long, thin roots from root crops makes transport and washing simpler. Leaving unusable portions of leafy vegetables in your own compost pile is better than bringing them along and possibly ending up in the trash. If produce is disease or insect-ridden, consider simply composting it, or at least only taking the better portions.
- 🗑️ If in doubt about something, call the center and double-check.

*Continued on page 7*

## Where in Marinette County?

*Tell us where this photo was taken and  
you could win a prize!*

To enter, send a note including your name, address, and phone number or email [awarren@marinettecounty.com](mailto:awarren@marinettecounty.com). Any interesting facts about the subject are also welcome. Correct answers will be entered in a drawing for a tote bag of 'conservation goodies'. **Please respond by August 17, 2010 to be entered in the drawing.**



Congratulations to Jerry Champagne of Beecher for winning the drawing in July's "Where in Marinette County" contest! The picture below is of the old Wausaukee High School Gym. The school is currently in the process of being torn down.



Thanks to everyone participating, and good luck with this month's photo!

### *AIS continued from page 4*

Before moving your boat from one water body to another please follow these simple AIS preventative steps to help curb harmful invasive plants and animals from hitchhiking and being introduced and spread in our waters.

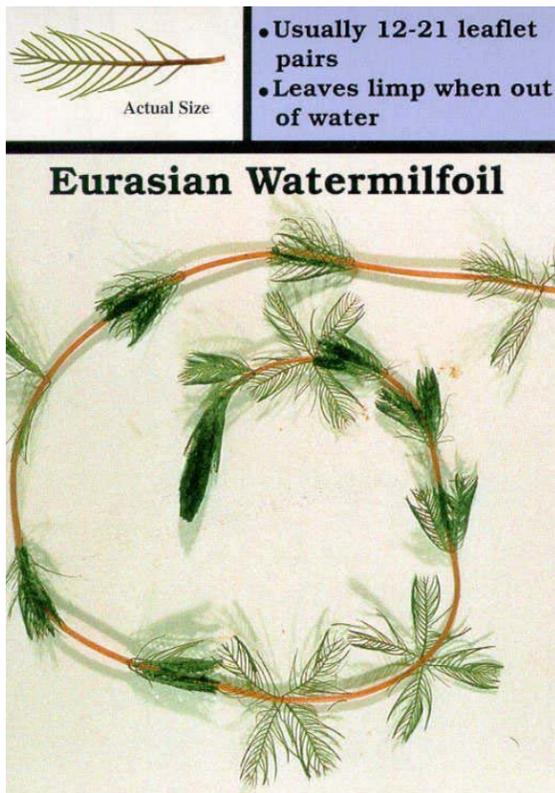
- **Inspect** and remove aquatic plants and animals from boat, trailer, and equipment before launching and leaving the landing.
- **Drain** all water from boat, motor, live wells, bilge, bait buckets and other containers before leaving the landing.
- **Dispose** of unused bait in the trash, not in the water or on land. Never move live fish, including minnows, from one water body to another.
- **Buy** your minnows from Wisconsin bait dealers or catch your own and use them to fish in the water you caught them from.
- **Wash** boat and equipment with hot or high pressure water if you have access to them **OR Dry** boat for at least five days.

If you would like to learn more about preventing and controlling aquatic invasive species impacting Marinette County, please refer to the County website (Marinette County home page → Departments → Land Information → Aquatic Invasive Species) or contact Robert Ruleau at 715-732-7642.



## Eurasian Watermilfoil Control Efforts Show Signs of Success

If you're a regular reader of the Northwoods Journal you probably know that Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM), an aquatic invasive plant that displaces native species and interferes with recreational use, has been on the march in Marinette County for several years. First discovered locally in Thunder Lake in 1991, EWM has since spread to 18 lakes and flowages throughout the county. During the last 4 years alone, EWM has been identified in 7 new lakes.



While the spread of EWM is alarming, the invasion has not gone unchallenged! During the last three years the Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Division (LWCD) has been working closely with citizen groups on Thunder and Beecher Lakes to manage established EWM populations and with the Newton Lakes Association to eradicate a new infestation. I am pleased to report success on all fronts.

On Thunder Lake, EWM remained somewhat "well behaved" during the first decade after its discovery. That changed several years ago and EWM began to expand into new areas of the lake. The Thunder, Island, and Eagle Area Lakes Association (TIE) tried several control methods including bottom screens and stocking milfoil eating weevils in the lake with little success. In 2009, the Association began a program of chemically treating EWM in early spring with 2,4-D, an herbicide that can be used to selectively target EWM while sparing valuable native plants. After only two years EWM abundance has been drastically reduced and native plants are on the rebound. In 2010 the Association received a DNR Lake Management Planning Grant to refine its aquatic plant management plan. Visit their website at <http://www.thunder-island-eagle-lakesassociation.com/> for more information.

At Beecher Lake, EWM has been very aggressive, spreading throughout the lake and choking out the native plant community. Working with the County LWCD, the Beecher Lake District has received DNR grants to develop and implement a multi-faceted EWM management plan. After three years of early spring 2,4-D treatments the area of abundant EWM growth has fallen from a high of 14 acres to only 3.5 acres. In the fall and winter of 2010, the District will be attempting a partial drawdown of Beecher Lake to expose the lakebed to freezing conditions, which has been

iations to learn more about the Beecher & Upper Lake District.

While EWM has been successfully managed at Thunder and Beecher Lakes, in Little Newton there is a real chance that EWM can be eradicated! *If successful, it will mark the first time an established EWM population has been eliminated from a Wisconsin lake.* After its discovery in the fall of 2007, the Newton Lakes Association received an Aquatic Invasive Species Rapid Response Grant from the DNR. The grant covered 75% of herbicide treatment costs in 2008 and 2009. The treatment was so successful that in July 2009 LWCD staff and lake volunteers were unable to find EWM anywhere in the lake! In June of 2010 several isolated EWM plants were found and pulled by divers. It is hoped that with continued vigilance and prompt pulling of isolated EWM plants, this exotic invader can be eliminated and the lake can be removed from the aquatic invasive species list.

So, while these cases clearly illustrate that EWM is not a death sentence for a lake, managing the invader is both time consuming and expensive. And while eradication may yet be possible in Little Newton Lake, experience shows us that once introduced, EWM will likely be there to stay and managing it will be a lifelong task. These examples also illustrate the importance of preventing the spread of exotic invasive species.

So before and after every trip to your favorite lake, remember to drain all water from the boat and clean plants, mud and any organisms from the boat and trailer. Before launching in another lake or stream it's recommended that you pressure wash the boat and trailer with hot water or allow them to dry for at least 5 days.



Photo courtesy of UW-Extension

For more about Wisconsin Lake Associations, aquatic plant management, lake ecology, resources, and lake information, visit the UW-Extension Lakes website at <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/>.



## County Landfill & Area Recycling Information

MAR-OCO County Landfill  
(Marinette and Oconto Counties)  
N7785 Shaffer Road, 5 miles west of  
Crivitz off of County Rd. A  
(715) 854-7530

### 2010 Hours

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays, April – October  
8 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
Closed all other Saturdays, Sundays &  
holidays

***Yard waste, liquid waste, automobile parts, & recyclables are not accepted. Disposal fees apply.***

For more information, visit online at  
[www.marinettecounty.com](http://www.marinettecounty.com)



### Recycling Centers

Town of Stephenson  
Twin Bridge site, County X  
Tuesday, Saturday, Sunday  
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Crivitz site, August Street  
Wednesday and Saturday  
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Newspaper, cardboard, magazines, glass bottles and jars, tin cans, aluminum, plastic containers (1 & 2), used motor oil, car batteries, scrap metal & yard waste accepted. For more information visit online at <http://www.stephensonwisc.com/>.

Town of Peshtigo  
W1945 Old Peshtigo Road  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Saturdays each month  
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays each month  
12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

We accept tires, appliances and air conditioners with Freon, stoves, microwaves, washers, dryers, any kind of metal (no motor vehicles), televisions, automotive oil (no cooking oil or antifreeze), paper, cardboard, plastic, glass, aluminum, tin, batteries, bagged garbage and yard waste. No paint or hazardous materials. Some fees may apply. Visit <http://townofpeshtigo.org> for more information. Residents only.

Township of Athelstane  
(715) 856-6428  
Wednesday, 12:00 – 4p.m.  
Saturday, 12:00 – 4p.m.  
Sunday, 8a.m. – 4p.m.

Cans, cardboard, brown & clear glass, magazines, paper, plastic #1 & #2, and drain oil accepted; no building materials or paint. Some yard waste accepted. Fees may apply. For more information visit: <http://athelstanewi.com/recycle.htm>.





## Managing Tomato Pests

By: Scott Reuss, Marinette County UW-Extension Horticulture Agent

Tomatoes are one of the most popular garden vegetables, but they can be the target of multiple disease and insect pests that affect their yield or fruit quality. Here are some common problems and tips to help you identify them, and know how to manage them more effectively. First, a couple of other tips that can help you avoid pest or physiological problems:

- Buy high quality plants from reputable sources. Whether you start plants from seed on your own or buy transplants, make sure they are healthy and pest-free when you buy them. If they don't look right, don't buy them, as there are a number of viral diseases that may be found in tomatoes, usually causing leaf curling, uneven coloring or yellow streaking/spotting, and cause stunted plants with smaller, poor tasting fruit.
- Have good growing conditions. This means placing the tomatoes in full sunlight, having fertile soil or fertilizing correctly, and watering correctly and consistently.
- Rotate where tomatoes are grown. Most diseases that affect tomatoes survive in the soil on last year's plant material. Do not try to grow tomatoes in a spot that had tomatoes, potatoes, eggplants, or peppers last year, if at all possible.
- Stake or trellis the plants. The higher the percentage of the plant that touches the soil, the higher the likelihood of insect and disease problems. Staking will also help maintain good air flow around and through the plants. Air flow is very important to help ward off either the start of diseases, or slowing down disease spread within the plants.
- Mulch around the plants. In conjunction with trellising or staking, using straw, plastic, or other mulch materials will slow down the start of foliar diseases, and will also help your soil hold moisture. The one negative is that it creates a better slug environment.



The major problems encountered when growing tomatoes in our area include Septoria leaf spot & Early Blight; fruit Anthracnose; Blossom End Rot; and Slugs. Occasional other problems include Hornworms/Fruitworms; Chipmunks; and Cutworms.

The most devastating pest of tomato that we have in our area is a pair of diseases that act alike, look nearly alike, and are treated in the same manner: **Septoria Leaf Spot** and **Early Blight**. Both diseases are caused by fungal pathogens that survive on decaying organic matter and get started when spores from the fungi contact the leaves from a tomato plant, usually due to soil being splashed up onto leaves by rain or irrigation droplets. The disease move upwards in the canopy either by splash effect or by leaves touching each other.

Both diseases cause brown spots on the leaves, usually surrounded by yellow rings. As the disease worsens, entire leaves will fall off due to these lesions. If left unmanaged, these diseases often result in plants with very few, if any, leaves left by the end of August. Thus, fruit quality and

and ease of other pests infecting the already stressed plant.

Management of this disease starts with proper rotation and cleanliness, proper mulching and staking, and looking for lesions on lower leaves and removing these leaves. Another option is to utilize fungicides, either prior to disease symptoms showing, or combining leaf removal and fungicide use after you see first spots. Fungicides containing the active ingredients *chlorothalonil*, *maneb*, or *mancozeb* are the most effective, but you need to use on approximately a 7-day spray interval, and sprayed very thoroughly over the entire plant.

**Fruit Anthracnose** is the most common disease of the fruit. The disease causes sunken spots on ripe fruit, usually with a black center as spots age. Anthracnose can usually be avoided or minimized via rotation, staking/trellising & mulching, and proper picking of fruit. The presence of foliar diseases will often indicate that anthracnose may also be present as the fruit ripen, so be ready to pick fruit properly and use them right away on such plants.

**Blossom end rot** is common, but is not actually a disease. Most gardeners think it is a disease because it shows up as sunken spots at the tip of the fruit, often increasing in size as fruit increases in size or maturity. The real problem is a lack of calcium getting to the tips of the fruit, usually caused by insufficient, or inconsistent, water availability to the plant. Roma-type tomatoes are much more susceptible to blossom end rot, as are tomatoes grown in containers. Make sure to have consistent water available to your plants, and add one-half cup garden lime to your soil-less mix if growing in containers.

Managing diseases with mulch is a very good thing, but one unfortunate side effect is that we create better environments for **slugs**. These arthropods can then cause damage to fruit by chewing round holes at night. The fruit then usually get secondary rots and become useless. You can manage slugs by spreading crushed shells (egg, zebra mussel, etc...) or diatomaceous earth around your plants. You can also hand pick them at night or on cloudy days; put boards down between plants and then turn the boards over during the day and crush them; use slug control products such as Slug-Go; or put saucers of beer right at ground level, which they crawl into and perish.



Lastly are the occasional problems. **Cutworms** are an early season pest that are easily avoided by either wrapping paper around the plant stem base or by placing open-ended cans or plastic bottles around young plants, pushing them at least half an inch into the soil. **Hornworms** and **fruitworms** are large caterpillars that are best managed by picking them off the plant and crushing them, as it is very rare to find more than one or two on a plant at a time. **Chipmunks** also like ripening fruit as a healthy snack. If they are a significant problem, you can either use smaller mesh fencing to exclude them, or (as they are an unprotected species) you can use fatal methods such as rat traps.

If you have more questions about tomatoes or any other horticultural issue, contact Scott or Linda at the Marinette County UW-Extension office, 715-732-7510 or e-mail to [scott.reuss@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:scott.reuss@ces.uwex.edu).

*Produce, continued from page 5*

### Marinette County Food Pantry Information

- ☞ NEWCAP - 801 Wells St., Marinette; hours are M-F, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., but prefer a.m. Phone: 715-732-4171.
- ☞ St. Vincent DePaul - 1619 Main St., Marinette; Hours are M-F, 9-5, prefer MWF 9-noon. Phone: 715-735-6955.
- ☞ Crivitz Area - 806 Fritzie, Crivitz; Hours are 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. each month, 9-10 a.m. Phone: 715-854-2222.
- ☞ Amberg - W15053 Grant St.; Hours are 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues. or Wed. a.m. Phone: 715-927-2079.
- ☞ Peshtigo - 240 McCagg St.; Hours are every Wed., 8:30-10 a.m. Phone: 715-582-3494.
- ☞ Niagara - St. Anthony's Catholic Church, every other Mon. (7/28, 8/11, etc.). Phone: 715-251-3879.
- ☞ Salvation Army - 80 Russell St., Marinette; hours are 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Phone: 715-735-7448
- ☞ WIC - Crivitz at St. Mary's Catholic Church; hours are July 20-Sept.1, 1-4 p.m.
- ☞ WIC - Niagara at the Niagara Senior Center; 1<sup>st</sup> Tue. of each month from 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-3:30 p.m.
- ☞ WIC - Marinette at Dept. of Human Services, 2500 Hall Ave; 1st two Thursdays of each month. Phone: 715-732-7680.



Lastly, if you have any questions regarding vegetable/fruit production or any other horticultural issue, contact Scott or Linda at the Marinette County UW-Extension office, 715-732-7510 or e-mail [scott.reuss@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:scott.reuss@ces.uwex.edu).

### Northwoods Journal

Volume 8, Issue 3

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 County Land & Water Conservation Division
- Marinette County Parks & Outdoor Recreation Department
- 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 Land & Water Conservation  
1926 Hall Ave, Marinette, WI 54143  
(715) 732-7780

[awarren@marinettecounty.com](mailto:awarren@marinettecounty.com)



## Area Events Calendar

- June-August Bands at Badger Park.** Free concerts Wednesday evenings 6:30-8:30pm in Badger Park, Peshtigo. Concessions available at 5:15pm. Scheduled dates: 6/30, 7/14, 7/28, 8/11 & 8/25.
- June-August Sunset Concert Series.** Free concerts Tuesday evenings at 7pm on Stephenson Island in Marinette: 6/22, 6/29, 7/3, 7/4, 7/13.
- July-August Concerts in the Park.** Free concerts Thursday evenings at 7pm at the band shell in Great Lakes Memorial Marina Park in Menominee, MI.: 7/8, 7/15, 7/22, 7/29, 8/12.
- June-October Peshtigo Fire Museum Open.** Museum located on Oconto Avenue in Peshtigo will be open through October 8. Hours are 7 days a week from 10am-4pm. For more information call the museum at 715-582-3244.
- August 3 National Night Out at Stephenson Island.** 4-8pm at Stephenson Island, demonstrations, informational booths, emergency vehicle displays, kids games, DAR duck race, bike giveaway, food, fun and more. Music is from 7-9pm by Depending on the Weather. Event sponsored by Neighborhood Watch Program and Crime Prevention Unit of the Marinette Police Department in conjunction with the Menominee Police Department. For information call 715-732-5200.
- August 5-8 Waterfront Festival** at Menominee Marina Park. Thursday: children's parade, food booths, children's activities, demonstrations and band. Friday: brats for breakfast, food booths, children's activities, water ball contest, sailboat race and band. Saturday: 5k run&5k walk, YMCA fitness demonstrations, M&M Amateur Radio Club, food booths, children's activities, Blessing of the Watercraft, windsurfing, fire safety house tours, music, 9th annual festival charity ride and fireworks, Sunday: food booths, parade, windsurfing, band, Drum & Bugle Corp. performances.
- Aug. 6, 13, 20 Family Water Bash** at the Civic Center Pool. Every Friday night from 6:15-8:15pm. Regular admission rates apply. Call 715-732-5222 for more information.
- August 7 Crivitz Wolverine 5K Run/Walk.** 8am, community based event to support the Crivitz High School sports programs through the Crivitz Booster Club. For more information contact Michelle at [mgski34@yahoo.com](mailto:mgski34@yahoo.com) or [www.crivitzwolverine.com](http://www.crivitzwolverine.com).
- August 7 Gun Show** at Crivitz Village Hall. 8:30am-3pm. Sponsored by American Legion Post 413, Crivitz Village Hall. Show times 8:30am-3pm, admission \$3 and under 12 years \$1. For reservations call Claire at 715-854-2676.
- August 7, 14 M&M Timberjacks Game.** August 7 at 11am at Walton Blesch Field against the Manitowoc Mariners; August 14 at 6pm at Spies Field against the Renegades. \$4 adults, \$2 children 10-17 and children under 10 free.
- August 10-15 USCA National Canoe & Kayak Championships.** Events will be held at various locations throughout the Peshtigo River State Forest. Pre-registration required. Several different events to be held for adults and youth. Call 1-800-236-6681 or [uscanoe.com](http://uscanoe.com) or [peshtigoriverpaddlers.com](http://peshtigoriverpaddlers.com).
- August 13, 27 Outdoor Movie Series** at Stephenson Island, Marinette. At dark and sponsored by the Dome Lanes and the Marinette Recreation Department. Free, fun family event. Bring your blankets and chairs and enjoy the show. All movies are rated PG. Aug. 13 - The Princess and The Frog; Aug. 25 - The Tooth Fairy.
- August 14 Silver Cliff Fire & Rescue Auxiliary Picnic.** Memorial Picnic grounds, County Hwy I & County Hwy C. 10am parade, 11am-6pm picnic with food, music, beer, coffee and kid games. To enter unit for the parade call Bill Kiepert at 715-757-3973.
- August 21 Rainbow Run.** 9am, Stephenson Library parking lot in Marinette. 2 mile non-competitive run/walk at 9am and starting and finishing at Stephenson Public Library Parking lot, Riverside Avenue, Marinette. For more information call the Rainbow House at 715-735-6656 or email [jpeters74@new.rr.com](mailto:jpeters74@new.rr.com).
- August 23-28 Isle Royale Seminar Tour.** Led by Dr. Wendel Johnson and sponsored by the office of Continuing Education, the tour will feature studies of island flora, fauna and geology by foot and by boat. For more information about the tour call 715-735-4343 or 735-4342.
- August 26-29 Marinette County Fair** at the Wausaukee Fairgrounds. See page 4 for more information.

### Update - Children's Learning Garden at Harmony Arboretum

We made more progress on the Children's Garden this summer – we now have the “critters-eye-view tunnel” element built and it is awaiting paint, props, and other finishing touches. We have volunteers ready to put their artistic creativity to work to paint a mural on the front of the structure to give visitors the impression of ‘smallness’ in the underground world. In addition, several plant beds were installed for the pioneer and sensory gardens; the wetlands continue to evolve; the hedge maze is complete; and the Native American garden is growing wonderfully thanks to the recent rains.

The Garden Walk on July 10 helped inform visitors of the Children's Garden Project and why we are creating it at the Harmony Arboretum - over two hundred people participated in the Garden Walk! If you are interested in volunteering, workdays are Thursdays from 8:30am-noon and 4-7pm. Call Linda Warren, UWEX, at 715-732-7510 for more information. You can also visit the Children's Garden online at <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/marinette/hort/mastergardener.html> to see what opportunities are available for volunteers.

The pictures at right are from recent activity at the Children's Learning Garden. Top: visitors learn about the Native American garden – the structure behind them is the critters-eye-view tunnel. Bottom: the wetland plants are doing well adapting to their new home, and paths are being installed around the edge.



### Upcoming Events

**August 5 – Prairie Walk, 6-8 pm** – Tour the 17 acre prairie at Harmony Arboretum with local native plant enthusiasts. Spend an evening learning about prairie plants, their importance, and why people are creating or restoring them. The prairie flowers should be nearing their peak at this time. See page 1 for more information.

**September 9 – Salsa Night, 6-8 pm** – Back by popular demand! Check out how to grow the fresh garden ingredients you need to make salsa; learn safe salsa preservation; then taste and take home some different recipes for this healthy snack.

**September 11 – Fall Plant Sale, 9 am-noon** – Northern Lights Master Gardeners fall plant sale. Funds raised all go towards educational programming. Bring your pest samples and plant raising questions to ask a Master Gardeners or UWEX staff.

Located seven miles west of the City of Marinette off of Highway 64, then 1/2 mile south on County E. **All programs are free unless otherwise stated.** For more information, call UWEX at 715-732-7510 or LWCD at 715-732-7780.

