

# Northwoods Journal - June 2012

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

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## **Wildlife Observation Deck at Pond Road Now Open**

A wildlife observation deck on Pond Road in the Town of Peshtigo is now open to the public. The deck provides excellent viewing of birds and other wildlife at "Winegar Pond" along Green Bay in the Peshtigo Harbor Wildlife Area.

During spring and fall migrations, you might see fifty or more bird species in a single visit. Year round the area provides important stopover and nesting habitat for dozens of bird species.

The observation deck was built on State land by Chappee Rapids Audubon Society members and other volunteers, primarily using white cedar from the Marinette County Forest. Materials were purchased using donations from many local individuals. On May 12, 2012 a dedication ceremony and "BIG SIT BIRDATHON" fund raiser were held at the deck. Big Sit participants received pledges for each species seen. More birds seen means more money raised for future Audubon sponsored projects. See the July *Northwoods Journal* for results.

The deck is wheelchair accessible and open at all times. To visit, take County B out of **Peshtigo**, then turn right onto County BB. Take BB southeast about 6.5 miles then turn right onto Pond Road. The Deck is about .7 miles on the south (right) side. **From Marinette** take Shore Drive (County BB) about 6.2 miles south of the city limits and turn left (south) on to Pond Road. To see pictures of the Observation Deck and learn more about the Chappee Rapids Audubon Society, visit <http://craudubon.com/>.

## **2011 Land & Water Conservation Division Activities**

By Greg Cleereman, County Conservationist



### **Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Division**

2011 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:

-  County Conservationist who directs and manages division activities
-  Conservation Technician who provides technical assistance to farmers working to protect water quality from runoff pollution
-  Water Resources Specialist who works with lake groups and shoreline landowners
-  Education Specialist who provides general environmental education as well as promotion of other departmental programs
-  Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator to expand and enhance efforts to control and/or prevent infestations
-  Wildlife Damage Coordinator who administers a WDNR funded program to minimize crop damage from wildlife and reimburse farmers for crop damage that does occur
-  Program Assistant who helps all of the other staff and performs office duties

This article will give you a sense of how the LWCD is working on your behalf. The discussion is not meant to cover everything we do, but highlights major program areas.

#### Agricultural Runoff Pollution

Ending winter spreading of manure has long been the focus of the LWCD. Most fish kills and contaminated wells around the state in recent years occurred when melting snow delivered winter spread manure to groundwater or lakes and streams. To prevent water contamination, we help farmers voluntarily install best management practices. The LWCD obtained \$1,034,397.09 in state cost sharing, designed practices, and supervised practice installations for twelve cooperating landowners that installed:

-  8 Manure Storage Facilities
-  5 Barnyard Runoff Control Systems
-  139 acres of nutrient management planning
-  4 Manure Transfer Systems
-  1 Wetland Restoration
-  2 Barnyard Roofs
-  1 Manure Storage Facility Roofs
-  1 Waste Treatment (Feed Leachate)

These projects end winter manure spreading on 1,722 acres and bring the total area of cropland, no longer winter spread with manure, to more than 40,000 acres. 667 pounds of barnyard phosphorus were routed to manure storage facilities rather than allowed to reach surface and ground water.

#### Aquatic Invasive Species

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 Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and Eurasian Water Milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum* L.) have been especially problematic for hundreds of Marinette County riparian landowners. To control these invasive plants, the LWCD continues to build and expand partnerships with other agencies, counties, local units of government, and service groups.

#### AIS Trainings

In early summer, we sponsored *Clean Boats Clean Waters* and *Citizen Lake Monitoring Network* workshops to educate citizens about AIS threats to our waters. Workshops also trained citizens to perform watercraft inspections, take boater surveys at boat landings and actively monitor invasive species in and around lakes and rivers. Citizen volunteers are crucial to our prevention efforts. Thank you to those that donated time to keep our waters healthy and free of AIS.

#### Phragmites Control Project

2011 kicked off the three-year *Great Lakes Restoration Initiative* (GLRI) funded Phragmites control project. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), along with organizations, local governments, and landowners from six northeast Wisconsin counties began work to control a highly invasive plant that has taken over important wetland habitat and blocked water access along the shoreline.



Early in 2011, the LWCD sent out letters, informational packets and permission cards to shoreline property owners affected by Phragmites. Overall, 318 landowner permission cards and information packets were mailed and 307 (97%) were returned. This phenomenal return rate is a credit to property owners. Of responses received, 304 gave permission for the spray. Only 3 said NO.

In September, herbicide treatments began along the shoreline. Overall, nearly 750 acres of Phragmites on private and public lands were sprayed via helicopter and ground applications in Marinette County. Follow-up landowner contact and project outreach along with treatment of new growth is anticipated for this year. Watch for project updates in the *Northwoods Journal* and local media throughout the year. See the article by Robert Ruleau, AIS Coordinator, in this issue for more details.

#### Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) Watercraft Inspection Project

The LWCD received funding from the WDNR for a watercraft inspection & AIS prevention project on County waters. Watercraft inspectors carry out the vision of the state-wide Clean Boats Clean Waters program to inform and educate the public about the threats of AIS to Wisconsin waters. Inspectors share information about AIS regulations, prevention steps, and help boaters look for invasive plants and animals on their boats and equipment at boat launches. Inspectors mostly work on waters that have harmful AIS like Eurasian Watermilfoil or Zebra Mussels to contain their spread. During watercraft inspections, valuable data on boater behavior is collected to help prevent the spread of AIS in our waters.



*A detailed look at the County CBCW Watercraft Inspection Project and our newly hired watercraft inspectors will be included in the July issue of NWJ.*

**Continued next page**

### Activities continued

#### Wetland invasive mapping

A survey of Phragmites and Japanese Knotweed in Marinette County was completed in early 2011. These are two of the more problematic invasive species spreading to inland wetlands and roadside ditches. In many instances, Phragmites has actually taken over in areas where another invasive plant, Purple Loosestrife, used to grow. Follow up survey mapping will be done to determine the extent of Phragmites and Japanese Knotweed spread to inland areas. Control activities will begin this year to remove these invasive plants from valuable wetland areas or those near streams.

#### Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition

Aquatic Invasive Species know no political boundaries. For this reason, Marinette County became a founding partner of the *Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition* (WRISC) in 2009. WRISC is a Cooperative Weed Management Area encompassing Forest, Florence, and Marinette Counties in Wisconsin, and Dickinson and Menominee Counties in the Upper Peninsula. The organization consists of federal, state and local agencies, utility companies, civic organizations, and individuals interested in comprehensive management of invasive species. It combines multi-agency resources and expertise to coordinate public education, workgroup activities, control methods and promote the best management practices to help slow the spread of these invaders. As a result, WRISC has had many successful instances of invasive species removal.

*Marinette County is a partner in a federal grant that WRISC received in 2011. This grant will further fund our watercraft inspection program and provide access to a portable boat wash station used to prevent the spread of AIS in the County this boating season. More on this in the July issue of NWJ!*

#### Aquatic Plant Management Plans

These plans outline the steps necessary to control aquatic invasive species and prevent their spread to other lakes and streams. State rules for managing aquatic plants in Wisconsin require a management plan that takes into consideration the importance of native aquatic plants and the effect of plant management activities. The LWCD completed AIS management plans for Beecher Lake, Thunder Lake, and Peshtigo Flowage. Plant management plans for specific lakes can be found at [marinettecounty.com](http://marinettecounty.com). Just click on Departments, then Land Information, and then Lake Associations. Most lake projects and AIS control efforts are funded by grants received from the WDNR.

#### Eurasian Water Milfoil Control

Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) is a very aggressive aquatic plant that has made its way into 20 area waterbodies (Bay of Green Bay, inland lakes, rivers, reservoirs and flowages) since its initial discovery in Green Bay in 1979. EWM spreads easily by fragments caught on trailers and lower units of boats. These plants form dense beds that restrict navigation and even fish movement.

EWM control efforts continued on Thunder Lake and Beecher Lake. Early season herbicide treatments were very successful on both lakes, reducing EWM populations to more manageable levels. On Little Newton Lake, three years of intensive management have nearly eradicated EWM. In 2011 divers pulled scattered EWM plants from the lakebed where it was once abundant. Unfortunately new colonies were later discovered in the lake and a late season herbicide treatment was again required.

In the fall and winter an experimental drawdown of the water level in Beecher Lake was conducted to evaluate its use as a EWM control method. Since the Beecher Lake dam has a fixed crest with no gates to alter the water level, siphons were used to suck water from the lake. The process worked as planned, lowering the lake level by more than 4 feet. EWM will be mapped this summer to evaluate the effectiveness of the winter drawdown.



Drawdown of Beecher Lake

This spring, the LWCD received an AIS Control Grant to obtain a hydraulic harvesting system to increase the speed and efficiency of plant harvesting. The hydraulic harvester should reduce or even eliminate the need for herbicide treatments in lakes like Thunder and Little Newton with sparse EWM populations.



#### Environmental Education

The rationale for environmental education programming is found in the following quote. *"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."* - Baba Dioum, Senegalese Ecologist

People understand and appreciate nature when they are exposed to outdoor activities and natural wonders. The heart of our educational effort is the *Teaching Outdoor Awareness and Discovery* (TOAD) program. TOAD is a collection of nature study and monitoring equipment and programs that we bring anywhere within Marinette County. In 2001, we delivered a modest 26 TOAD programs to 1,461 individuals - in 2011, 5,565 people attended 168 TOAD programs. The primary audience is schoolchildren - one full set of equipment, shared by all of the county's eight school districts and private schools, is the smartest use of limited funds and resources. However, TOAD programs are also utilized by home school groups, day care facilities, scouts, public libraries, 4-H & other youth groups, UW-Marquette, and adult groups. TOAD's popularity has increased over the years and is utilized year-round.



Props for the "Skins & Skulls" program about WI mammals

We also administer Harmony Arboretum, located seven miles west of the City of Marinette on County Highway E ¼ mile south of Highway 64. This 460-acre property has a prairie (with a new serenity circle), an interpretive nature trail through old growth hardwoods, and a diverse native plant community. The Northern Lights Master Gardeners Association, Chappee Rapids Chapter of the Audubon Society, Marinette County UW-Extension, WDNR and other agencies help us offer recreation and education.

The property centerpiece is the demonstration garden, built and improved through the tireless efforts of the Master Gardeners and UW-Extension staff. The demonstration garden is open year-round and is free. Among the latest Demonstration Garden projects is the Children's Learning Garden (CLG). The CLG will provide an opportunity for children to learn about gardening, experience nature close up, and gain a better appreciation for the natural world. The CLG is nearing completion. Stop out and see the 32-foot mural at Chipmunk's Tunnel, sundial, garden maze, and wetland demonstration.



Mural at the CLG with interactive sundial in foreground

#### Educational Highlights:

- ✦ Using LWCD canoes, we helped Peshtigo Elementary teach canoeing and kayaking skills to 180 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders
- ✦ Held the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Sand Lake Conservation Camp for 80 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> graders, who learned about conservation concepts and outdoor skills
- ✦ Held four Environmental Field Days for 501 4<sup>th</sup> graders and adults, where students learned about 8 different conservation topics
- ✦ Provided an extensive display at the Marinette County Fair promoting natural shoreline which featured live reptiles, amphibians, fish and aquatic insects that was visited by 2,216 people
- ✦ 210 students (grades K through 12) from 10 County schools participated in the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association Environmental Poster Contest
- ✦ Completed our 6<sup>th</sup> 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, Eastern Turkeys, Canada Geese, Elk, and Gray Wolves. The program is funded by deer hunting license fees and bonus permit sales. Marinette County has some of the highest white-tailed deer crop damage rates in Wisconsin. The program also provides hunters access to agricultural lands during regular hunting seasons for species causing damage and for which the participating farmer received 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 including wildlife-proof fencing.



#### Wildlife Damage program highlights included:

- ✦ 50 farms participated in the program
- ✦ Approximately 9,131 acres were appraised for damage
- ✦ Approximately 5,980 acres were opened to public hunting
- ✦ The main crops appraised were alfalfa and corn
- ✦ 2011 once again saw an increase in the amount of turkey related complaints, mostly through the puncturing of feed silage bags and contamination of stored feed
- ✦ Marinette County had more crop acres damaged than any other county in Wisconsin
- ✦ Approximately 40% decrease in Black Bear damage to crops

An adjunct to the Wildlife Damage Program, the Venison Donation Program, pays processing costs of hunter donated deer. The resulting ground venison is given to local food pantries for distribution to those in need. 92 deer were donated in 2011, resulting in approximately 4,140 pounds of ground venison.

*If you would like to participate in one of the LWCD programs, need help with something not described above, or simply would like more information, just contact our office at the Courthouse at 715-732-7780. You can also visit us online at [www.marinettecounty.com](http://www.marinettecounty.com).*



**Just for Kids – the LWCD Writing Contest!**



Tell us your story . . . Ever had a close encounter with wildlife? Did you visit a farm and get to feed the calves? How about the big fish in grandpa's pond that got away? Share your story about that great camping trip with the family that you will never forget!

**This is a contest for kids in grades 6 to 9 and grades 10 to 12.** Your story should be no more than 500 words, and be about nature and/or the outdoors in Marinette County. Make sure your name, grade in school, address, phone and/or email is listed on your entry. Your story should be typed, single spaced as a WORD document.

First place winners in each division will have their story appear in the September edition of the *Northwoods Journal* published by the Land & Water Conservation Division. *The two winners will receive 4 entry passes to the Marinette County Fair!*

**Stories are due on or before August 8, 2012.**

Your entry should be brought or mailed to the Land & Water Conservation office no later than August 8, 2012. Please mail to:

My Story Contest - LWCD  
1926 Hall Avenue  
Marinette WI 54143-1717

You can also email your entry to [ediviano@marinettecounty.com](mailto:ediviano@marinettecounty.com), please

**Annual Bird Hike at Harmony**



Join Greg Cleereman, Marinette County Conservationist, on **Saturday, June 2**, at the Harmony Arboretum from 6:00-8:00 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 1/2 mile south on County E. For more information, call the LWCD office at 715-732-7780.



The 7<sup>th</sup> annual *Sand Lake Conservation Camp* will be held at Camp Bird from June 21-23, 2012. **Wisconsin and Michigan Upper Peninsula youth entering 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade this fall are invited to participate.** The fee is \$55 (\$70 after June 1) and includes room, board, and all activities and programs. **Registration deadline is June 8 and space is limited.**



*Conservation Camp 2011 Participants*

Program topics include wildlife, water quality, fisheries, and forestry. Returning this year are the "camper's choice" activities, special sessions that campers choose when registering, and attend in addition to regularly scheduled camp programs. Examples of these activities include archery, trapping, spinner making, challenge course, canoeing, GPS, outdoor first aid, bird-watching skills, and t-shirt design.



*Hands-on Herpetiles at the Nature Center*

**Several scholarships are available** for campers – for more information on how to apply for scholarships or other questions, please contact Anne Bartels, Information & Education Specialist/Camp Director at 715-732-7784, or contact her via email at [abartels@marinettecounty.com](mailto:abartels@marinettecounty.com).

More information is available online at [www.marinettecounty.com](http://www.marinettecounty.com) – do a search for "Sand Lake" or "Conservation Camp" and the first result is the website. It contains all the required registration forms, FAQs, directions, camp schedule, a 'what to bring' list, a photo tour of last year's camp, and more.



*Visitors from the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary*

-  Lake Michigan Land & Water Conservation Association (LMLWCA)
-  Wisconsin Association of Land & Water Employees (WALCE)
-  Marinette County & Green Bay Chapters of Trout Unlimited
-  American Legion Post 280 of Coleman
-  Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Division
-  Wisconsin DNR

**Thank you sponsors, camp staff, volunteers & presenters for all you do!**

*Too Old for Sand Lake Camp?*

**If you are going into 9-11<sup>th</sup> grades, there is a camp for you, too!** The WLWCA Youth Conservation Camp will be held June 12-15 at Trees for Tomorrow Natural Resources Specialty School in Eagle River. Visit the Trees for Tomorrow website at <http://treesfortomorrow.com>.

Students interested in natural resource management careers, or just enjoy the outdoors are best suited for this camp. Experiences include lake research, wildlife & forest biology, nature hikes & canoeing, and real world conservation. You'll learn about animal skulls, tree ID, loon ecology, wildlife survival, and more.

*The fee is \$175 before May 25<sup>th</sup>, and after May 35, fee is \$200.* Contact your local Land Conservation Department to find out if they offer scholarships. *Iron & Vilas Counties offer a limited number of \$100 scholarships to students living in those counties.* Contact Iron or Vilas Land Conservation to apply for a scholarship. Scholarship applications are due: **May 18, 2012.**

 Iron County Conservation Office:  
715-561-2234

 Vilas County Conservation Office:  
715-479-3682

*Winners will be selected based on number of applicants and content of a short essay.*

**For more information contact:**

Carolyn Scholl  
Vilas County Land Conservation  
330 Court Street, Eagle River, WI 54521  
715-479-3682  
[cascho@co.vilas.wi.us](mailto:cascho@co.vilas.wi.us)

**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 "Northwoods Journal" in the Quick Links menu at the right of the page. We can send an e-mail reminder when each new issue is posted online. Contact Anne Bartels, Information & Education Specialist: [abartels@marinettecounty.com](mailto:abartels@marinettecounty.com) or call 715-732-7784 for more information.



## Landscaping for Wildlife: Part 1 - Birds

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



When we place plants into a landscape, it attracts wildlife - mostly insects and other invertebrates. Often people are more interested in seeing the cute, fuzzy, feathery kinds of critters than they are in watching a stink bug or other insect. However, there are things you can do to either improve the diversity of species that you are able to view, or the frequency with which they visit. This is the first of a four part series in this year's *Northwoods Journal* issues regarding landscaping for wildlife. The other key topics in the series will be Insects (July); Reptiles/Amphibians (August); and Mammals/impact of invasive species (Sept.).



Plants can be purposely selected, placed, and managed to provide better habitat for attracting wildlife that you are interested in viewing. There will be a significant discussion on plant specificity and diversity in the July issue, so we will not spend as much time on those aspects here. In general, the wider range of plant species, growth habits, and flowering/fruitletting/seedling types you have, the more bird species you'll attract. When planning your landscaping, the selected plants should include aspects for food, water, cover, space, and nesting/roosting/resting areas.

### Space

Space that is not contaminated by humans is either present on your property or it isn't. If you live in a city, village or rural subdivision, there are certain species that you will simply never see, because they are not found in high human presence areas. In some cases, you can work with neighbors to augment the space available and develop larger areas that will allow you to view a wider diversity of species. In most situations, you are only able to work with what space you have available and do the best you can to supply the other needs.

One example is within the woodpecker family. Pileated woodpeckers (below) are the largest of the woodpeckers found in Wisconsin and are the least frequently seen, due to their inherent need for larger timber tracts in which to thrive. Although they are sometimes found in city parks or highly forested residential areas, those who live in urban areas are not likely to ever see one of these magnificent birds. However, they are very likely to be able to attract significant numbers of smaller woodpecker species, such as downy & hairy woodpeckers and yellow-bellied sapsuckers.



### Food & Water

You may have a lot of space and great areas that wildlife can live in, but if they do not have sufficient quality and quantity of food and water, you will not meet your viewing goals. High quality sources of food and water will serve both as an attractant and as holding power. Such sources will provide occasional sightings of less common species, as well as consistently being able to view those species relatively common to your area.

Adding a moving water feature to your landscape will serve as a significant source of auditory attraction for birds and can mean a major difference in how many species you will see. Many insect-eating birds do not need extra water, but may still use the water source for supplemental water or for bathing. Water will often serve to help attract migrating birds so that you are better able to view them, in addition to species that may nest in your home area.

The vast majority of birds and mammals are going to be attracted and held by the food that is part of your landscape, i.e. the seeds and fruits produced on plants, or the insects found on those plants. Some species are specific to particular food sources, and others are able to use a wide variety of food items available. A few bird species live in nomadic flocks that move very consistently over the course of the year from one food source to another, and other birds move in family groups after the young are large enough. If you have certain types of fruit or seed-producing trees or shrubs, you may experience this phenomenon. Examples include seeing a flock of crossbills in a pine plantation or cedar waxwings on a juniper or elderberry. Some species move in response to other species; a great example are the cuckoos (black and yellow-billed), which tend to nest in areas with tent caterpillar outbreaks and are not tied to locale as strongly as most other birds.

There is insufficient space to delve into the details of selecting plants for the specific types of forage they produce for birds. Please see UW-Extension Publication G1609 *Landscape Plants that Attract Birds*, found free at <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Assets/pdfs/G1609.pdf> or you can purchase a copy through any county UW-Extension office. One last food-related need is grit. Having a source of sand or small gravel will help birds in your area, and may also serve as a dust bath for them, which helps in parasite control.

### Cover/Habitat

The more similar the plants in your landscape look, the fewer bird species they will attract. Each species has a desired type of cover and nesting, roosting, or resting habitat. If you want more information regarding these aspects, you can request the *Nesting Habitat* handout from either Marinette County UW-Extension or Marinette County Land & Water Conservation.

Simply put, higher plant diversity equals more habitat and cover types, which leads to more opportunities for varied nesting and roosting habitat. There are birds that nest in almost any given type of plant-dominated habitat, from short-grass prairies to mature hardwood forests. However, most of them tend to nest in or under thicker shrubs or larger herbaceous perennials.

Nesting habitat is not the only aspect to consider. During the breeding season, most birds prefer open spots on which to roost and sing, such as dead branches, dead trees, or similar spots. These spots attract certain birds year-round, and serve as great roosting spots for birds of prey - so be aware that the entire circle of life takes place in such areas. Providing thick cover near feeding or singing areas will help protect smaller species, and likely help hold them in an area, as they will feel safer and likely be able to find good nesting habitat.

In conclusion, there are many aspects to think about if you are interested in attracting more wildlife species to your viewing area. With only a little bit more time and work, you can select and fit wildlife-beneficial plants or groupings into your overall landscape very nicely, while matching wildlife needs to your abilities and interests.



## Marinette County to be featured on the TV show "Discover Wisconsin"!



Four Wisconsin counties have joined together to feature "Wisconsin Birding", an episode of the popular TV show *Discover Wisconsin*. It will air Saturday, June 23 & Sunday, June 24, on the *Discover Wisconsin* broadcast network, reaching almost 480,000 viewers across the upper Great Lake region, including Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Northern Illinois and Upper Michigan.

Join Marinette County, Oneida Nation, the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, and the city of Alma for an intimate look at bird watching in Wisconsin. Marinette County Tourism Director, Jamie Darge, traveled the county with the crew from *Discover Wisconsin* and host Emmy Fink to find some of the best places for birding enthusiasts to visit.

From Thunder Mountain County Park to Governor Thompson State Park, Harmony Arboretum and the Peshtigo River Trail, you'll see why Marinette County is a great place for bird watching and nature viewing.

*Discover Wisconsin* is the nation's longest running tourism program, celebrating its 25th Anniversary throughout 2012. *Discover Wisconsin* can be seen statewide on Fox Sports North (FSN) Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. For more on this episode or the broadcast schedule in other areas visit [www.discoverwisconsin.com](http://www.discoverwisconsin.com).

## Clean Boats Clean Waters Watercraft Inspection and AIS Monitoring Workshop

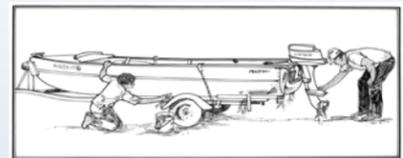
Monday, June 11<sup>th</sup> - 5:30-8pm

Stephenson Town Hall

County Road X & Sun and Sand Lane

Crivitz, WI 54114

Marinette County is hosting a *Clean Boats Clean Waters Watercraft Inspection* workshop to prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in our waters. This workshop is free and open to the public.



Attendees will:

- Get a general overview of AIS and learn to identify the species that threaten Wisconsin and Marinette County waters.
- Be trained to organize and conduct a boater education and monitoring campaign in the community.
- Share information on current invasive species rules and regulations, and record information on boater behaviors at boat landings.
- Demonstrate steps that can be taken to remove plants and animals that may be attached to equipment.
- And most importantly, raise public awareness of AIS issues!

To attend this workshop, please contact Robert Ruleau, AIS Coordinator, Marinette County Land and Water Conservation Division at 715-732-7642 or [rruleau@marinettecounty.com](mailto:rruleau@marinettecounty.com).



## Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Phragmites Project Update

By Robert Ruleau, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator

Shortly after Labor Day and the September issue of the *Northwoods Journal* was released last year, the long anticipated effort to remove non-native Phragmites grass along the western shores of Green Bay and Lake Michigan began. By the end of October, just over 3,000 acres of dense Phragmites stands stretching along 100 miles of shoreline were treated via helicopter and ground equipment. This large scale, multi-county project would not have been possible without the hard work and collaboration of a variety of conservation organizations, affected landowners, and grant funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI).



Phragmites have taken over this shoreline

Marinette County Land Information Department - Land and Water Conservation Division (LWCD) has been an active partner with the Wisconsin DNR during the process leading up to last year's treatments. Early in 2011, the LWCD sent out packets containing project information and permission cards to over 300 shoreline property owners affected by Phragmites. To spray on or near private property, permission from landowners was needed before any treatments could occur. As the permission cards started filtering in, parcel data was plugged into the county Geographic Information System (GIS) database to create real-time parcel updates on the County website.

Land Information GIS mapping guru, Tim Oestreich, was an integral part of this process, providing the DNR with detailed spray block aerial maps that the helicopter pilot used to determine which landowners opted to be included in the project and those that did not return permission cards or opted out of the project. We never anticipated the excellent return rate of the permission cards and positive landowner feedback about the project. This was a direct reflection of the desire to get rid of this menacing plant and the frustration Phragmites has caused to residents of Marinette County. Overall, a total of 318 landowner permission cards and information packets were sent out - 307, or 97%, were returned. Of the responses received, 304 were YES, giving permission for the spray. Only 3 landowners said NO. The other 11 were either vacant properties or the landowner did not return the permission card.

After parcel data was mapped, the actual treatments began on private and public lands in September of 2011. Because the project covers 6 counties and over 100 miles of diverse shoreline, a number of different control and treatment methods were used. The thickest and most difficult to access populations of Phragmites occur along the Western Shores of Green Bay in Marinette, Oconto, and Brown Counties. There is usually standing water among the stands up until winter which makes wheeled vehicle and tractor use very difficult. Along this stretch, aerial spray was the most time efficient and economical choice. The DNR contracted out a pilot named 'Sparky' and his helicopter to do the aerial sprays. In areas that were not as dense, or were bordering parcels that opted out of the project, ground crews were contracted to provide a more accurate spray along parcel lines plugged into GPS mapping units.



Aerial spraying

Smaller stands in Door, Sheboygan and Manitowoc Counties along the Lake Michigan shoreline were also treated using backpack sprayers and bundle and cut methods.

The effectiveness of herbicide treatment should be upwards of 90% kill rate. Basically what we are going to see during growing season are a lot of brownish/tan standing dead stems where the plant was not cut down. In many areas, the standing stems were cut down with tractors and mulch cutters during winter when the ground was frozen. This will help promote native wetland plant growth and will also allow access and views to the Bay once again.

### So what's in store for this year?

Most of the difficult and time consuming task of getting permission from landowners and mapping parcels is finished. Moving forward, the LWCD plans to do a smaller mailing to try and reach those that did not return permission cards last year. We will also host a landowner meeting during the summer, and provide regular project updates on the front page of the County website, newspapers, and future issues of the *Northwoods Journal*.

Monitoring plots will be set up along the shoreline to determine the effectiveness of the treatment and what plants are growing back. The goal is to restore the shore to a native and diverse wetland plant community, which will provide a variety of birds and small animals access to good quality habitat. Removing Phragmites benefits both people and wildlife along the shoreline.



Follow-up treatment will happen later this year - another aerial treatment, if necessary - but most likely a lot of on-the-ground spot treatments of any new growth. Also, landowner education and vigilance will also be important components to a successful project. People need to know what Phragmites look like when it first starts growing in the Spring and to be able to tell the difference between beneficial native plants, and harmful non-native, invasive plants.

Phragmites impacts are not just limited to this project area. A very similar situation exists along the shoreline north of Marinette, from Menominee all the way up to Escanaba. Conservation organizations and landowners are partnering in Michigan to try and secure grant funding to take part in a similar Phragmites removal project along this stretch. If successful, that project will greatly enhance our effort to stay on top of this ongoing battle. *Regular project updates will be provided in future NWJ issues*

### Marinette County Phragmites Project Highlights from 2011

- ~ 15 miles of Shoreline Treated
- ~ 735 Acres of Aerial Treatment
- ~ 30 Acres of Ground Treatment
- ~ 318 Landowners Contacted

### Useful Websites on Phragmites and the WDNR/GLRI Project

- <http://glri.us/>
- [http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/GreatLakes/documents/PhragmitesRemovalProject\\_FAQs.pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/GreatLakes/documents/PhragmitesRemovalProject_FAQs.pdf)
- <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/greatlakes/Phragmites2007.pdf>
- <http://www.wisconsinwetlands.org/phragmites.htm>

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



## The Greatest Feat on Earth: Bird Migration

By Aleta DiRienzo, LWCD

The word "migration" is derived from the Latin word *migrare* which means to go from one place to another, and refers to birds traveling south to north in the spring and north to south in the fall. Bird migration has attracted attention for nearly 3,000 years.



Aristotle, naturalist and philosopher of ancient Greece, was one of the first observers whose writings discussed bird migration and is credited with superstitious beliefs that persisted for several centuries. One of those beliefs, that birds hibernated, became so firmly entrenched that American ornithologist, Dr. Elliott Cones, in 1878 listed 182 papers dealing with the hibernation of swallows. People in Aristotle's time believed birds went into a lethargic state and remained that way during winter, hiding in caves, hollow trees, eaves or the mud of marshes. Early naturalists wrote fantastic accounts of swallows landing on reeds in marshes until the reeds bent over, sinking them in the mud where the birds napped until the warm spring weather returned.

One of the most fascinating theories to account for migration was in a pamphlet titled, "An Essay toward the Probable Solution of this Question: Whence come the Stork and the Turtledove, the Crane, and the Swallow, when they Know and Observe the Appointed Time of their Coming", published in 1703. It was written "By a Person of Learning and Piety" whose "probable solution" stated migratory birds flew to the moon and there spent the winter. (*Migration of Birds - Circular 16; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*)



Today we know that birds do not hibernate, fly to the moon or burrow in the mud. Migration takes place all year round, peaking in spring and fall. Migration itself depends on many factors, like bird species, distance, travel speed, route and climate. One way to look at migration is to consider the distances traveled. Short-distance migrants may move only a short distance as from higher to lower elevations on a mountainside. Medium-distance migrants may cover distances that span from one to several states. Long-distance migrants typically have ranges that extend from the United States and Canada in the summer to Mexico and further south in the winter.

No one knows for sure how birds determine when it is time to start their migration. It may be a compilation of several different "cues" that prepare them to embark on their travels. Day length, temperature, food supplies and genetic predisposition all play a part in signaling birds it is time to leave. Even with the predisposition birds won't migrate without physiological stimulus. After the breeding season and molting, just before they migrate, bird metabolism undergoes major changes. Hormones, released at different times of day by pituitary & adrenal glands, signal to the bird's body to save large amounts of fats under the skin. Day length stimulates this hormone

Continued next page





## Migration, continued

change which in turn triggers the greater food intake, sometimes increasing as much as forty percent. These fat deposits fuel aerobic contraction of flight muscles, permitting flights of long duration with minimal fatigue.



Weather is also a "trigger" for birds to get ready to migrate. Ever notice that when spring arrives late, the birds arrive late too? Or when spring is advanced, the birds arrive early to take advantage of the environmental resources? It all boils down to the change in the wind. The fall migration starts when winds come from the north. In spring the migration starts with the warm southerly breezes. On the heels of each spring storm, a new group of birds might move through.

Different bird species migrate at different times of day. Songbirds tend to fly at night, keeping safe from predators. Cooler, calmer air at night also makes flying more efficient for many species. Night migrations start soon after dark. Numbers are greatest between 10 pm and 1 am with the most birds flying from 11 pm to midnight, dwindling until dawn as birds land and rest. Predatory birds and shorebirds tend to migrate during the day, taking advantage of solar-related thermal currents for easy soaring. Some birds feed entirely on flying insects caught in these currents, using them as a source of food as well as permitting soaring flight that carries them on their journey with minimal expenditure of energy.



How do birds find their way during migration? They use stars for navigation, as well as the sun, wind patterns and landforms - all of which guide them to the same locations each year. The earth's magnetic field helps bird species, such as Robins, find their way. Believe it or not, the sense of smell was considered for many years to be poorly developed in birds, but recent evidence suggests some species can discriminate odors quite well. Smell plays a large role when birds arrive near their destination. Caged migratory birds experience something called "Migratory Restlessness" in which they become uneasy during the time when they should be migrating. During the fall southern migration, birds tend to move to the south side of their cages and try to get out. The opposite is true during the spring northward season. (*Bird Migration Teacher's Guide* - [www.northern-stars.com](http://www.northern-stars.com)).

Migration is a very dangerous time for our feathered friends. Birds may fly from 15 - 600 miles or more per day, depending on when they migrate, how far they have to go, and the conditions they face along the route, including the availability of suitable stopover habitat. Transoceanic migrants - birds that cross an ocean - may spend up to 100 hours or more in the air before they come to land. The Arctic Tern has the longest recorded migration of any bird on the planet, with a confirmed round trip of 22,000 miles! Ruby-throated Hummingbirds migrate from the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico to the southeastern

## Marinette County Lake Groups use Innovative Practices to Control EWM

By Chuck Druckrey, Water Resource Specialist

Since its discovery in 1991, Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) has been on the move in Marinette County. In the past several years, the plant has invaded at least seven new lakes and flowages, impacting fisheries, boating, and water quality. During the last several years the Marinette County LWCD has been working with landowners and lake groups on many of these water bodies to manage this aquatic invader.



*EWM has taken over in this lake as a mat of vegetation*

The most effective course of action for EWM control has been the use of an aquatic herbicide containing 2,4-D. When properly applied, excellent control of EWM has been achieved with minimal damage to the native plant community. While effective, herbicide use is not without its problems. Many lake residents are opposed to herbicide use, it is relatively expensive, and if not carefully applied it can damage some native species.

In an effort to reduce the reliance on herbicides, the LWCD has been working closely with lake groups on Beecher, Thunder, and Little Newton Lakes to develop and implement alternative control methods for EWM. In Beecher Lake, a winter drawdown was completed in 2011 to fight an aggressive and rapidly expanding EWM population. In Thunder Lake and Little Newton Lakes, a hydraulic harvester will be used to improve the effectiveness of manual control in areas with scattered EWM.

It has long been known that a winter drawdown can be used to control EWM in impoundments. While most native plants are resistant to winter drawdown, freezing kills the roots of EWM. This has been used to great advantage in impoundments such as Cauldron and High Falls Reservoirs. While lowering the water level would be easy to accomplish on most impoundments, the 6-foot high dam on Beecher Lake has a fixed spillway with no gates or other methods to adjust the water level. The LWCD and the Beecher Lake District explored several options to bypass the dam, eventually adopting a system of siphons to drain nearly 84 million gallons of water from the lake.

On August 27, 2011, four 6-inch diameter siphons were installed in Beecher Lake to lift water over the dam. While previous field trials showed the concept worked, in practice the results were much better than expected. In only two weeks the water level dropped nearly 2 feet. By the beginning of October, nearly five feet of water had been siphoned from the southern arm of Beecher Lake. Unfortunately, an old section



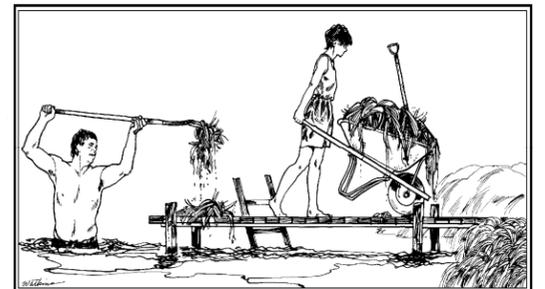
*Siphons being installed in Beecher Lake for drawdown*

of creek bed had silted in over the years, restricting flow out of the main body of the lake. As a result, the drawdown was limited to three feet in much of the lake, exposing fewer acres of lakebed than planned. The District is currently working on a plan to dredge the old channel to improve drawdown efficiency and improve EWM control in the future.



*Beecher Lake after drawdown*

Thunder Lake and Little Newton Lake are deep lakes with clear water. In both lakes, EWM grows at greater depth and is not as aggressive as in Beecher Lake. Herbicide treatment has greatly reduced EWM abundance in both lakes, leaving widely scattered plants and small colonies. Chemicals are less effective when used in small areas and not applicable for treating scattered plants. The Thunder Lake Association has been treating EWM on alternate years, allowing the plant to expand to "actionable levels" in the intervening years. At Little Newton Lake, divers have been pulling scattered EWM plants by hand, a slow and laborious process. While manual control can be effective, it is often difficult to collect the root system and plants can break apart, spreading fragments throughout the lake where they can take root and colonize new areas.



*Manually harvesting EWM*

To address the difficulty of managing sparse EWM communities, the LWCD has applied for and received grant funding from the State to build and operate a hydraulic plant harvester. A hydraulic harvester consists of a system of hoses, pumps, screens, and collection tanks mounted on a pontoon boat. In operation, a diver on the lakebed controls a suction hose, uprooting and feeding EWM plants into the hose. These plants are transported to the surface where an operator collects the plants. The water is filtered to remove any sediment and plant fragments before being returned to the lake.

These alternative methods should greatly reduce the need for chemical control of EWM in the project lakes. In Beecher & Upper Lakes, the periodic use of winter drawdown has the potential to control EWM in nearly 75% of the lake. In Thunder Lake, hydraulic harvesting should further reduce the frequency of herbicide use, and in Little Newton Lake where EWM is a recent invader, there is hope that persistent harvesting may yet eradicate the species.

*For more information on Marinette County Lake Associations or general lakes questions, contact Chuck Druckrey at 715-732-7528, or email [cdruckrey@marinettecounty.com](mailto:cdruckrey@marinettecounty.com).*



# Marinette County Breakfast on the Farm

Sunday, June 24, 2012  
7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Rain or Shine



Ed & Julie  
Nowak Family  
W8977 W 26th  
Rd, Crivitz, WI  
54114

7AM Church  
Service to be  
held on the  
Farm

Eddie is a 3rd generation owner of Nowak Farm. He was born and raised on the farm that he currently operates. Eddie and his wife Julie (Baker) of 30 years farmed together with his mom and dad, Edward and Marilyn Nowak. They started out milking 30 cows in 1981 and now they have 80 cows and 40 heifers and they own 280 acres. Their son Michael works on the farm and their daughter Emily also assists when she is home. In 2005 Nowak Construction put up a new calf barn and concrete cow yard. In 2008 a 48 x 48 work shop was built. Father Walter Stumpf and Deacon Jerome Thetreau, who is Eddie's cousin, will be celebrating a 7 am mass at the farm on the morning of the breakfast. Please come join us for "Breakfast on the Farm".



Pancakes, eggs, sausages, cheese curds, maple syrup, applesauce, milk, juice, coffee, ice cream sundaes

Petting Zoo, Face painting, Balloons, Kids Bouncy play area  
Viewing of barns & cattle, Wagon Rides, Live Polka Band  
No advanced ticket sales  
Adults - \$6.00 Children 6-10 - \$4.00

## An Evening with Birds

Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
At Harmony Arboretum Pavilion

Everyone enjoys seeing and hearing birds. Bring the whole family for an enjoyable evening learning about our local birds and how you can encourage them in your yard.



You are invited to attend the following classes:

- ✦ Make your yard bird-friendly by planting trees and shrubs that they will use for food and shelter. Handouts will include a list of suitable plants, together with a suggested layout for your yard, whether it is large or small (instructor Linda Warren)
- ✦ The first rule of enjoying birds in your yard is, "First do no Harm." Learn the do's and don'ts of attracting birds to your backyard using bird houses, feeders, and bird baths (instructor Greg Cleereman)
- ✦ Take a hike! to see the wide variety of bird habitats at Harmony and discuss the birds that use them (instructor Scott Reuss)

Hands-on activities for children and adults will include:

- ✦ Finding and matching the birds on the handout with native the birds painted on the huge mural at Harmony
- ✦ Learn to use a GPS when walking in the woods – several hidden geocaches to be found
- ✦ Birds of Harmony display and handout (a bird diversity count at Harmony is made biennially)
- ✦ Bird citizen science observation information
- ✦ Scavenger hunt
- ✦ Display of taxidermy native birds
- ✦ Information on the damage cats can do
- ✦ Display of the importance of insects to birds
- ✦ The importance of plants to migrating birds (Wisconsin Stopover Initiative)

Check the website [www.marquette.uwex.edu](http://www.marquette.uwex.edu) for class times, or call Linda at 715-732-7510, or toll-free 1-877-884-4408. Harmony Arboretum is located 7 miles west of Marinette on Highway 64, then 1/2 mile south on County E. On the website you will find a listing of all the events being held at Harmony this year

### Migration continued

United States every spring. This journey of 500-600 miles over the Caribbean Sea takes 24 hours without a break!



Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Of all the hazards confronting birds in migration, storms are one of the most dangerous. Birds crossing a large body of water can face strong headwind, get caught in storms, become exhausted, and fall into the waves. A sudden drop in temperature associated with a snowstorm can cause a similar effect. Lighthouses, tall buildings, monuments, television towers, and other aerial obstructions have been responsible for destruction of migratory birds. The fixed white lights associated with many of these structures confuse birds and cause their death by collision against the high obstructions. Television and cell towers, because they are upwards of 1,000 feet tall, present a greater menace than buildings or lighthouses. Their blinking lights causes passing migrants to blunder into guy wires or the tower itself.

Habitat needs of birds are generally known for the breeding and wintering sites, but what about habitat needed during the migratory trek? Natural landscapes continue to be altered by development, logging, and agriculture at a pace exceeding many species' ability to adapt.

**Loss of stopover habitat poses a huge threat to migratory bird populations.** To understand this, imagine you are in the car, traveling for hours. Tired, hungry, and you need to rest and refuel. Having made this trip before, you know a gas station/food mart is a few miles up the road. You are coming close – you recognize the bend in the road and big oak tree. The gas gauge reads empty but you breathe a sigh of relief as the station comes into view. You pull up to the pumps and notice a big CLOSED sign on the door. Now what are you going to do? There isn't another gas station for miles! You can get on your cell phone and call for help, but a migrating bird doesn't have that option. Without stopover sites along the way with adequate food for quick replenishment of fat reserves, shelter from predators, and water for rehydration, migrating birds are doomed.



Birds resting on a man-made structure during migration

Migrating birds can cover thousands of miles in their annual travels, often traveling the same route year after year with little deviation. Birds face many threats along their journeys, including window collisions, confusing lights that disrupt navigation, hunting, habitat loss and predation. Juvenile birds are at greater risk because of their inexperience with migration – yet somehow birds successfully migrate every year, waking us up after a long winter with their cheery spring-time songs. Hopefully, this great feat will continue well on into the future with birds waking our grand-children and great-grandchildren in the mornings with song.



A large amount of birds killed from impacting buildings, windows, and other man-made structures.

### Northwoods Journal

Volume 10, 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
- Marinette Co. UW-Extension

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Please send comments to:  
Marinette County LWCD  
1926 Hall Ave, Marinette, WI 54143  
[abartels@marinettecounty.com](mailto:abartels@marinettecounty.com)



## Area Events Calendar

- June-August Bands at Badger Park.** Badger Park in Peshtigo. Free musical entertainment, starts at 6:30pm. Concerts held Wednesday evenings with concessions available at 5:30pm. Scheduled dates: June 13, June 27, July 11, July 25, August 8 & August 22. Call 715-582-1141 for more information.
- June-August Concerts in the Park.** Great Lakes Memorial Marina in Menominee, MI, 7pm - June 28, July 12, July 26, and August 16. The event is free of charge. For more information or a listing of the bands, please call the Marinette/Menominee Area Chamber of Commerce at (715) 735-6681.
- June-August Concerts in the Park.** Evergreen Park, Wausaukee. Refreshments available, bring your own seating. June 7, July 5, August 9: 7pm show. June 17, July 15, August 19: 2pm show. More information, call 715-856-5341.
- July-August Sunset Concert Series.** Stephenson Island in Marinette July 3 & 14, from 7-9pm; July 15 & Aug. 7 from 6-9 p.m. Free musical entertainment. For more information or a listing of the bands, please call the Chamber of Commerce at (715) 735-6681.
- May 28-Sept.3 Area Museums Open.** Marinette & Menominee County Historical Museums, Peshtigo Fire Museum, Amberg Historical Complex, Busville Doll Museum (Crivitz), Land of Oz Museum (Wausaukee) & West Shore Fishing Museum (M-35 north of Menominee, MI). Visit <http://therealnorth.com/museums.htm> or call the Marinette/Menominee Area Chamber of Commerce at (715) 735-6681.
- June 2 Free Parks Day.** All Marinette County Parks, boat landings and day use areas will have free admission on Saturday, June 2 (Camping fees still apply). For more information please call the Marinette County Parks Office at 715-732-7530.
- June 2-3 Free Fishing Weekend.** Every year, the first consecutive Saturday and Sunday in June are designated as Free Fishing Weekend when you can fish without a license throughout the state of Wisconsin. All the waters of the state are open, including state waters of the Great Lakes and rivers bordering Wisconsin. Residents and nonresidents of all ages can fish without a fishing license (or trout or salmon stamps) over these two days. However, all other [fishing regulations](#) (length limits, bag limits, etc.) apply. Contact Theresa Stabo, Aquatic Resources Educator, at 608-266-2272 for information.
- June 5 Hershey's Track & Field Meet.** 1pm, Marinette High School track in Marinette. For boys & girls ages 9-14. Includes softball throw, standing long jump, dashes & runs. Participants may enter several events with opportunity to advance to district, state & national meets. No charge but a completed registration form is required. Forms available at the Civic Center – more information call 715-732-5222.
- June 7, 14, 21 & 28 TOUR DE TACO Weekly Bike Ride,** Thursdays at 6pm. Join us for a one hour ride with beverages & tacos after the ride at Cycle Path, 2329 13th Street, Menominee. Questions call 906-863-9361 or visit [www.cyclepath360.com](http://www.cyclepath360.com).
- June 8 Summer Kick-off Splash & Dance Party.** Marinette Civic Center Pool, 6:30-9 pm. Games, DJ, snacks, kids activities. Admission is contribution of \$3 or more. For more information call the Recreation Dept. at 715-732-5222.
- June 9 Healthy Kids' Day.** Menominee Marina, noon to 5p, kids' events, demonstrations, games, giveaways. Sponsored by the Marinette & Menominee YMCA, call 906-863-9983 for more information.
- June 9 Great Lakes Sports Grand Slam Contest.** Marinette High School baseball complex, 6pm. Free for boys & girls ages 5-13, pre-registration at Civic Center or register at the event. Trophies to top finishers, boys & girls compete separately. For more information call the Recreation Dept. at 715-732-5222.
- June 9-10 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 8-10 Copperfest in Oconto.** Kickoff breakfast will be 6:00- 8:30 a.m., crowning Miss Copperfest at 8:00 a.m. Fabulous weekend of family fun with live music, entertainment and plenty of refreshments. Street market, parade, horseshoes, flag football and dodgeball tournaments, fireworks, trout pond, kids inflatables. Come enjoy the always popular pie and ice cream social. For more information call (920) 834-6254.
- June 9-17 30<sup>th</sup> Porterfield Country Music Festival.** Green's Green Acres, 6 miles west of Marinette just off Hwy 64. Gates open at 9am June 9th. Camping available on the grounds. For more information call 715-789-2207 or 866-456-4333, or visit [www.countrymusicfestival.com](http://www.countrymusicfestival.com) for updates.
- June 15 Superhero Day & Parade.** Marinette Civic Center, 10-11:30 am, parade at 1pm (get ready at 12:30pm in parking lot). Decorate your own superhero costume and then march in the superhero parade. \$4 per child, preregistration required at Civic Center. For more information call the Recreation Dept. at 715-732-5222.
- June 16 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 21-23 Blue Grass Festival** at Thornton's Rafting Resort, Athelstane. Flatrock Music's 12th Annual Bluegrass Jamboree. Camping available. For ticket information visit website. Food and beverages served on grounds. 715-757-3311 or email [sjkstomper1@hotmail.com](mailto:sjkstomper1@hotmail.com).
- June 22 Kids Fishing Derby.** 8am-noon, Stephenson Island, Marinette. Sponsored by Marinette County Trout Unlimited & Marinette Recreation Department. Awards & prizes in many categories. Participants provide own tackle & bait. No charge but pre-registration required; no phone registrations accepted. Register at Civic Center in Marinette. Open to children ages 5 and up. Younger children can participate with parent. More information call 715-732-5222.
- June 24 Annual Art for All.** Great Lakes Memorial Marina in Menominee, MI, 10am-4pm. One day juried art show and sale. Contact Missy Peterson at (906) 792-9705 for more information about the event.
- June 24 BAMC Menominee River Century Bike Ride.** Begins at Marinette High School, 2135 Pierce Avenue in Marinette with registration between 7-10am and on June 23 from 3-6pm. Various route distances are offered (10, 25, 50, 75 and 100 miles). Fee per rider is \$22 by June 15, \$27 after June 15 and discounts offered for children 12 and under. For more information on ride call 715-735-4200 ext 3109 or visit [www.mrcride.com](http://www.mrcride.com).
- June 24-26 Thompson Antique & Classic Boat Rally.** At Nestegg Marine, 300 Wells St., Marinette. June 25. Show hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., event free to the public. For more information, call Andreas Jordahl Rhude at 612-723-8581 or email [thompsonboat@msn.com](mailto:thompsonboat@msn.com).
- June 29-30 Relay for Life.** Marinette HS track. Survivors ceremony 6pm, survivors walk to follow. The Luminaria ceremony will start at 9pm. DJ, raffles, kid's activities, inflatables and food. We will be walking through the night. For more information call Ruth at 715-732-1554.
- June 29-30 Red Solo Cup Countryfest.** Wildman Adventure Resort, N22200 Bomber Rd. Niagara WI, from 4-11pm. In conjunction with the Leroy Butler Foundation, a fundraiser for breast cancer awareness, Tickets available by calling 888-813-8524 or online at [www.ticketstaronline.com](http://www.ticketstaronline.com).
- June 30 Harmony by the Bay.** Menominee Marina, all day. Harmony by the Bay at Menominee Marina Park. The one day event will feature a variety of music and activities. For more information, visit <http://www.harmonybythebay.org/>.
- July 4-7 Area 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations/parades.** Crivitz - July 4 at 11am; Wausaukee – July 7, time TBA; for more information, please call the Marinette/Menominee Area Chamber of Commerce at (715) 735-6681.

## 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.



**June 2: Bird Hike, 6-8 a.m.** See page 3 sidebar for more details

**June 8: Managing for Maximum Vegetables, 6:30- 8:00 p.m.** Consider joining us at Harmony for an alternative Friday evening outing as we review in-season techniques necessary to help your vegetable plants maximize both the quality and quantity of their production potential.

**June 12: An Evening with Birds, 4:00-8:00 p.m.** See page 7 sidebar for more details.

**July 7: Invasive Plant ID & Management Workshop, 9:30-11:00 a.m.** If you are concerned about the effects of invasive plants on the native plants in your backyard, our area's natural spaces, or wildlife, join us to learn how to identify and manage these problematic plant species.



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



This year at the Children's Learning Garden (CLG), we will be working on several projects and hope to have the CLG completely finished by fall. Some of the projects include:

- Finishing the inside of the "critter's-eye-view underground tunnel"
- Creating the Native American and Sensory Gardens
- Constructing the sailboat sandbox play area
- Installing signage around the garden
- Pioneer cabin with gardening tools for kids

There will also be several new events this year to be held at Harmony – An Evening with Birds June 11 (see page 7 sidebar for details) and a Halloween Family Fun Fest on October 20.

For more information on the CLG, please contact UW-Extension at 715-732-7510 or LWCD at 715-732-7784. You can also visit online at [www.marinettecounty.com](http://www.marinettecounty.com) – click Departments – Land Information – Environmental Education – Children's Learning Garden.

