

Northwoods Journal – June 2016

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

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Birding with a Purpose - Help the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas this Summer

By Greg Cleereman, County Conservationist



The prime breeding season is here for many of our resident summer birds, making this a great time to get out into the field to add observations to the **Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II**. The Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas is a statewide citizen-based monitoring project slated to last through 2019, and will provide comprehensive data on the abundance and distribution of birds that breed in Wisconsin.

It's important for birders of all stripes - birders just like you - to collect and record bird data. With your help, the Atlas survey will be the largest citizen-science project in Wisconsin's history. First performed 20 years ago and now being conducted again today, the survey helps assess whether populations of bird species that nest and raise their young in Wisconsin are increasing, decreasing, or staying the same. The data you help collect will shape bird conservation efforts over the coming generation.



Birders in the field have reported extraordinary finds already this year, but Atlas organizers still need all birders to submit observations yet this summer and through the coming years. Take your birding to the next level through this exciting, cooperative and rewarding program. Help us help our birds!

Atlas Success Stories: Uncommon Breeding Birds Confirmed in Wisconsin

Since the survey started, nine species have already been confirmed as breeding in Wisconsin that were not confirmed during the first Breeding Bird Atlas. The species include Bufflehead, Canvasback, Eurasian Collared Dove, White-eyed Vireo and Yellow-throated Warbler and 2 federally endangered species - Whooping Crane and Kirtland's Warbler. This list also includes two European species now found breeding in Wisconsin: European Goldfinch and Great Tit.



Bufflehead



Kirtland's Warbler

All these data, as well as thousands of other observations, have been recorded through the Atlas's specially created online data-entry system administered through e-Bird (<http://ebird.org>). This system allows you to easily submit field data as soon as you can reach a computer with internet access. It also allows volunteers, organizers, and the general public to see real-time results. New features are constantly being added, and we expect atlas block maps for each species to be available on the Atlas e-Bird website soon!



More Atlas Success: By the Numbers

- ✎ 235 species have been observed (compared to 237 species observed during the entire first Atlas)
- ✎ 215 species confirmed breeding in WI (compared to 226 for the entire first Atlas)
- ✎ 1.8 million individual birds recorded
- ✎ Over 800 atlasers posted 173,000 observations on 28,500 checklists in 3,300 (3-mile X 3-mile) blocks throughout the state



The Marinette County Land Information Department is now on Facebook! Find out facts about nature, Wisconsin wildlife, birds, the environment, our programs, and other information. To find our Facebook page, go to the Marinette County website www.marinettecounty.com and then go into 'Departments' (left hand side of the main page). Then click on 'Land Information'. There you will find a Facebook logo to click on, and it will bring you to our page. The other way you can find us is to log in to Facebook and search for our page. Please type in "Marinette County Land Information Department" and the page should pop right up. Facebook may have you type in some letter/numbers as a security precaution but it's worth it! *And before you leave our page – don't forget to "Like Us"!*



Pollinator Week is June 20-26, 2016!



Eight years ago the U.S. Senate's unanimous approval and designation of a week in June as "National Pollinator Week" marked a necessary step toward addressing the urgent issue of declining pollinator populations. Pollinator Week has now grown to be an international celebration of the valuable ecosystem services provided by bees, birds, butterflies, bats and beetles. The growing concern for pollinators is a sign of progress, but it is vital that we continue to maximize our collective effort. The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture signs the proclamation every year.

Pollinating animals, including bees, birds, butterflies, bats, beetles and others, are vital to our delicate ecosystem, supporting terrestrial wildlife, providing healthy watershed, and more. Therefore, Pollinator Week is a week to get the importance of pollinators' message out to as many people as possible. It's not too early to start thinking about an event at your school, garden, church, store, etc. Pollinators positively affect all our lives- let's SAVE them and CELEBRATE them!



What can you do to help pollinators?

1. Plant for Pollinators

- ✿ Habitat opportunities abound on every landscape – from window boxes to acres of farms to corporate campuses to utility and roadside corridors – every site can be habitat.
- ✿ Utilize plants native to your area (or at the least, non-invasive for your area).
- ✿ Decide among the plant material options - seeds, plugs, plants or a combination.
- ✿ Know your soil type & select appropriate plant material.
- ✿ Plant in clusters to create a "target" for pollinators to find.



- ✿ Plant for continuous bloom throughout the growing season from spring to fall.
- ✿ Select a site that is removed from wind, has at least partial sun, and can provide water.



- ✿ Allow material from dead branches and logs remain as nesting sites; reduce mulch to allow patches of bare ground for ground-nesting bees to utilize; consider installing wood nesting blocks for wood-nesting natives (*below: an 'insect hotel'*).



- ✿ Utilize apps, online resources, regional planting guides, or contact local garden clubs or UW-Extension offices for tips and information.



2. Reduce/eliminate the impact of pesticides.

3. Register as a **SHARE** site – see link on the <http://www.pollinator.org/> website homepage. This free registry keeps track of pollinator habitat across the country.



4. Reach out to others – inform and inspire

- ✿ Utilize all the materials available to help you tell the story of pollinators, especially during National Pollinator Week.
- ✿ Tell local and state government officials that you care about pollinator health.

5. Buy local and organic produce, including honey.

- ✿ This supports local efforts & builds demand for organics.
- ✿ Buying local honey supports beekeepers in your area.



6. Conserve all of our resources; use less and reduce your impact.

- ✿ Pollinators are dramatically affected by extremes in weather.
- ✿ Climate change puts pressure on native ranges and overwintering sites.

7. Support the work of groups promoting science based, practical efforts for pollinators. Here are some websites that have more information about pollinators:

- The Xerxes Society - www.xerxes.org
- US Fish & Wildlife Service – Pollinators <http://www.fws.gov/pollinators>
- US Forest Service – Pollinators <http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators>
- North American Pollinator Protection Campaign – <http://pollinator.org/nappc>
- National Pollinator Garden Network – <http://millionpollinatorgardens.org/>
- Monarch Watch – www.monarchwatch.org
- Monarch Joint Venture – www.monarchjointventure.org
- Monarch Larva Monitoring Project – www.mlmp.org
- National Wildlife Federation – <http://www.nwf.org/>



Pollinator Week was initiated and is managed by the Pollinator Partnership: <http://www.pollinator.org/>.

Annual Bird Hike at Harmony Arboretum



Birding in the Harmony Hardwoods forest

Join Greg Cleereman, Marinette County Conservationist, on **Saturday, June 11, 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 moderate on internal trails and roads. Insect repellent is recommended. Harmony Arboretum is located seven miles west of the City of Marinette off of Highway 64, then ½ mile south on County E. For more information, call the LWCD office at 715-732-7780.

Northwoods Journal Online

Would you like to read current issues of the *Northwoods Journal* online? Go to 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 or call 715-732-7784 for more information.



'TAKE A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE!' CONTEST



Have you ever found a flower or tree on your land you could not identify? Have you ever wondered which birds were singing above you? Enter this contest for landowners to learn more about the plants and animals that share your land.

If your name is chosen, we'll send staff from Land & Water Conservation and UW-Extension to spend a day walking your property with you. We'll tell you what plants, birds, and animals live there. We will also look for invasive species; tell you what to watch for; and how to manage any invasive species found. We can also make habitat improvement recommendations, even if you have river or lake shoreline.

You will also receive:

- ✓ a high quality aerial photo of your property
- ✓ photos of invasive species that could affect your property
- ✓ a soils map
- ✓ other written materials based on your land and your concerns

If you are interested, just fill in the application below and mail it in by June 12, 2016.

Entry for Wild Side Walk

NAME:

PHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

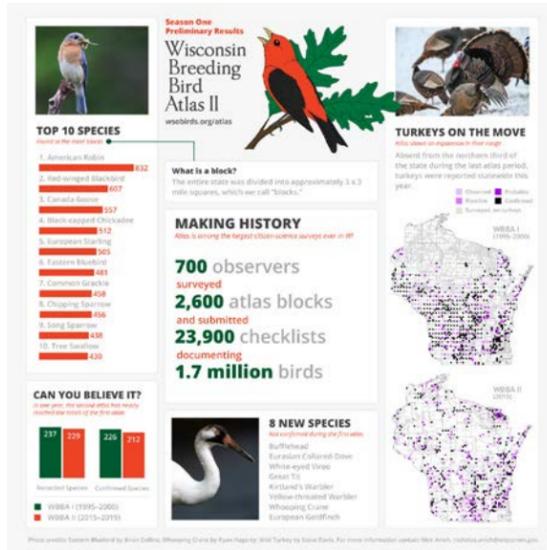
ADDRESS:

To help us best serve you, what is your goal for the *Wild Side* walk? What topics or specific management recommendations would you like to learn about on your property?

Send your entry to:

Marinette County Land Information
Department - LWCD
Courthouse, 1926 Hall Avenue
Marinette, WI 54143-1717

Birding, continued from page 1:



The first Atlas season survey has had a successful start, but again, it's birders like you who've helped make it so. It's going to take all of Wisconsin's avian enthusiasts to begin "birding with a purpose" to draw a true picture of the actual richness and diversity of our state's birds.



Whooping cranes



The European Goldfinch
Carduelis

How You Can Get Involved

- ✈ Join the atlas email list for regular updates on the project: <http://wsobirds.org/atlas-email-signup>
- ✈ Get a quick overview of how to get started: <http://wsobirds.org/atlas-quick-start>
- ✈ "Like" the WBBA II Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WIBreedingBirdAtlas>
- ✈ Post photos and ask questions on the Atlas Facebook group page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/570124803135917/>



Common Loon

WDNR's "Go Wild" Campaign



Looking for outdoor adventure? The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is making it easier than ever to get out and "Go Wild" by offering key licenses and registrations all in one place. The new "Go Wild" system puts a license to excitement right at your fingertips, 24 hours a day.

Over the water and through the woods

Go hunt, go fish, head out on the trails or load up the boat. You can *Go Wild* with these activities and more. To start, simply visit GoWild.WI.Gov or stop at one of more than 1,000 DNR license sales vendors and customer service locations.



The new *Go Wild* system secures your license and registration information online and makes it available on your personal conservation card - no more worries about losing your one and only copy. GoWild.WI.Gov also acts as a portal to help you plan your adventure and make the most of Wisconsin's great outdoors.

Go Wild - 24-7, 365

- ❖ Hunting licenses: Deer, turkey, duck, pheasant, goose, small game and more
- ❖ Fishing licenses: general licenses, inland trout stamp, Great Lakes salmon and trout, sturgeon hook and line and more
- ❖ Conservation Patron licenses: your best value, the *Conservation Patron* licenses include state trail passes and vehicle registration stickers
- ❖ Boat, ATV and UTV registrations
- ❖ Trapping and harvesting



Are you ready to Go Wild?

Get set and go! DNR wants you to enjoy all the recreational options Wisconsin has to offer. From trophy hunting to world-class trout streams to an unparalleled network of state parks, trails and natural areas, you'll find endless opportunity for adventure. For more information including trail maps, event calendars and regulations, download the *Official Guide for Wisconsin State Parks* and the *Official Guide for Wisconsin's Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife* through the Pocket Ranger mobile apps.

<http://dnr.wi.gov/GoWild>



A Pond of Your Own

By Chuck Druckrey, Water Resource Specialist

We humans have a fascination with water. In our homes and offices, we install fish tanks and desktop water fountains. Visit the yard-and-garden section of any store and you'll find a wide variety of plastic pools, pumps and waterfalls so the do-it-yourselfer can install their own water garden in the back yard. For the fortunate few we have the "holy grail" of water...lakefront property. If anyone doubts the value we place on water look no further than the skyrocketing price of waterfront property. Of course for those who can't afford the lakefront lot, or just want their water closer to home, there is the man-made pond. Indeed if you look at a current air photo it seems everyone in the county already has a pond.



While constructing a pond on your property can be a rewarding experience, it is not without difficulties. Many well-meaning folks have spent a lot of money constructing a "pond" only to wind up with a muddy hole in the ground or a weed choked tadpole nursery. Even worse, some have damaged valuable wetland habitat and in doing so have wound up on the wrong side of the law. To avoid the major pitfalls of pond construction you need to engage in some pre-construction planning and make sure you cover your bases by getting permits when they are required.

The first step in planning is to ask yourself what you expect of your pond. People dig ponds for many different reasons, some for swimming, some for fishing and some for wildlife habitat. While a pond can be designed and constructed to meet any one of these needs, rare is the pond that can meet all of these goals at the same time. When designing your pond there will always be tradeoffs, and site limitations may make constructing your perfect pond a difficult and expensive process. If you are realistic in your planning and expectations you will be much happier with the end results.

So maybe you want a **swimming pond**. Ask anyone what the ideal swimming pond looks like and it will be deep, clear and have a firm sandy bottom with no aquatic plants or insects (sounds a lot like a swimming pool doesn't it?). This is the most difficult pond to maintain. You may have heard the saying "nature abhors a vacuum"; well this definitely applies for ponds. Dig that pond and nature will immediately begin stocking it with plants, insects, frogs and fish quicker than you can blow up the pool raft. So be realistic - if you want a pool, get a pool. To reduce aquatic plants, a pond needs to be deep enough to limit light striking the bottom. With clear water this typically requires a depth of 20 feet or more, and steep sides help maximize the amount of deep water. In the swimming area, lay down a thick blanket of coarse sand or pea gravel - this will discourage plant growth. Repeated disturbance or chemical control will keep plants out of the swimming area, especially as the pond ages.



The perfect **fishing pond** will also be fairly deep so fish have a cool water refuge during the heat of summer and plenty of oxygen to last the winter. Unlike the swimming pond, the man-made fishing hole needs plenty of structure and habitat. This can be achieved by varying the depth and side slopes to encourage some aquatic plants, and by adding downed trees, rocks and gravel. A good fishing pond needs to be productive, with aquatic plants and algae fueling the aquatic food web.

On the other end of the spectrum is the **wildlife pond**. The perfect wildlife pond is shallow and mucky, with abundant weeds and emergent plants like cattails. The shoreline should be brushy or support tall grass for nesting habitat. Wildlife ponds are very productive with lot of bugs, frogs and salamanders. If the water is more than four feet deep you can also expect muskrat, mink and other small mammals to call your pond home.

Of course, no pond will be successful without a steady supply of water, a fact that some people fail to fully investigate before digging.

There are two sources of water for a pond - surface runoff and groundwater. As a rule, surface water is typically higher in nutrients than groundwater and typically not a suitable source for swimming ponds. Surface water may be acceptable for fishponds, but only if nutrient levels are low. Since elevated nutrients are typically not a concern in wildlife ponds surface water is an acceptable source. Indeed, impounding runoff and plugging ditches in previously farmed areas is a popular way to create wildlife ponds. However, damming up a natural stream or flooding a high quality wetland is a bad idea and rarely allowed.

Groundwater is typically low in nutrients and makes the ideal supply for swimming and fishing ponds. But before you bring in the backhoe some investigation is required to assure you have an adequate supply of groundwater. This typically involves digging test pits during the driest part of the year. Don't assume that because it's wet in the spring it will hold water all year. In sandy or gravelly soil the water table may fluctuate by 10 feet or more during the year. Dig a pond in these areas and it may be full in May and dry by August.

If there is an ugly side to the pond-building craze it's the damage that has been done to wetlands throughout the county. Many well-meaning folks have sought to "improve" wetlands by digging ponds in them. While excavating may be allowed in some wetlands that have been degraded by years of farming, putting a pond in an undisturbed wetland upsets the natural balance and invites invasion by exotic species. Even worse, some people look at wetlands as a convenient place to put all the spoils generated when they dig their pond. Not only is this extremely damaging to the environment, but it's also highly illegal. Get caught and your pond is going to cost a lot more than you planned.

If it all sounds rather complicated, it is - however, there are people who can help. In Marinette County you can start by calling the Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Division at 715-732-7780. The department has county soils and wetland information that can be invaluable when choosing a site for your pond. Excavators who are familiar with digging ponds can also be a good source of information, just beware that you are the one responsible for permits, not the contractor.

When considering a pond, check first with the Wisconsin DNR. You will need a permit to dig a pond if it is located within 500 feet of a navigable waterway, is located in a floodplain or wetland, or will be connected to a public waterway. In Marinette County you can find out if you need a permit by calling the DNR office in Peshtigo at 715-582-5000. If the pond is located within 300 feet of a lake or stream you may also need a county permit. Some towns also regulate ponds.

So do your homework, get the correct permits, and enjoy your new pond!

Fee-free Weekend in Wisconsin's State Lands, June 4-5, 2016

Wisconsin offers many ways to enjoy the beautiful outdoors and natural resources! June 4-5 is the perfect weekend to try a new outdoors activity or return to one you haven't tried in a long time. Challenge yourself and try them all!

Free Fishing

- On June 4-5 Wisconsin residents and visitors can fish anywhere for free in Wisconsin. No license is needed - includes inland trout and Great Lakes trout and salmon fishing.
- New to fishing or just need to brush up on your casting? Attend one of the free fishing clinics being hosted around the state.
- Free fishing equipment for loan at 50 state parks, DNR offices, and partner organizations.
- Fishing rules such as limits, size and species of fish that you can keep do apply during free fishing weekend.



State Parks

- On June 4 and 5, all state park vehicle admission fees on all DNR-owned properties are waived.
- All state trail pass fees on all DNR-owned properties are waived.
- Cooperatively-run state trails also may waive fees on this day.

Free Trails

- On June 4 & 5, all state trails pass fees on all DNR-owned properties are waived.
- Cooperatively-run state trails also may waive fees.
- In addition, Saturday, June 4 is *National Trails Day*, and is held the first Saturday of every June. Visit <http://nationaltrailsday.americanhiking.org> for more information about National Trails Day.

Ride free ATV/UTV

- On June 4 & 5, ATV/UTV owners can ride free; you do not need to have your machine registered in Wisconsin. Nonresident ATV/UTV owners do not need to have a trail pass on these days. Enjoy the free ride!
- All other rules apply -- safety education certification is required for all UTV and ATV operators who were born on or after Jan. 1, 1988.
- Find places to ride on the Wisconsin ATV Association website and travelwisconsin.com.
- Find organized rides and events on the Wisconsin ATV Association's Registration-Free Weekend webpage.



Peninsula State Park, Door County

Marinette County State Parks & Forests

- ✓ **Menominee River State Recreation Area** is located in northeast Marinette County along several miles of the Menominee River.
- ✓ **Governor Thompson State Park** has more than 2,800 acres of woods, a campground, picnic areas & hiking trails, and 6 miles of shoreline on the Caldron Falls Flowage.
- ✓ The **Peshtigo River State Forest** has 25 miles of river, 3,200 acres of water and 9,200 acres of forest.



High School and Middle School Students Compete in the 2016 Wisconsin Envirothon

By Kim Warkentin, Wisconsin Land+Water Operations Manager/Youth Education Director

The 2016 **Wisconsin Envirothon** was held in Rosholt, WI at The Wisconsin Lions Camp on Friday, April 15, 2016. Wisconsin Envirothon is Wisconsin's ultimate middle and high school environmental science challenge where teams of four or five high students participate in four hands-on, mostly outdoor field challenges designed by natural resources professionals and educators. The exams are based on the four categories: Forestry, Soils/Land Use, Aquatic Ecology and Wildlife.



Schools from across the state spent a beautiful spring day testing their knowledge at the various stations where they participated in multiple hands-on challenges. Students identified tree species and measured tree diameters in the woods and assessed the engineering and agronomic properties of soils. They also identified aquatic invertebrates, invasive plants, and wildlife species and tracks. Additionally, they tested their classroom knowledge on written exams. "Envirothon is a fun way to learn about the environment in a way other than a classroom setting," said Cameron Derenne, a student from Luxemburg-Casco High School.

Finally the students created a team presentation based on this year's current issue, *Invasive Species: A Challenge to the Environment, Economy and Society*. They had three weeks to prepare their team presentation. The Current Issue Team presentation provides an opportunity to join fundamental knowledge and reasoning ability to understand and articulate today's critical environmental concerns. Participating in Wisconsin Envirothon helps students develop knowledge and skills to either pursue careers in conservation or use their knowledge to preserve our natural resources in whatever civic and career choices that lie ahead. "There is nothing else like this that I have ever participated in. It's an absolutely wonderful experience that I will continue to support," remarked Benjamin Plesh, a Sun Prairie High School student.

Northwoods Journal Volume 14, 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

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

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



Soils/Land Use station

The overall winner for the High School team will represent Wisconsin at the North American Envirothon taking place July 24-29, 2016 at Trent University, in Peterborough, Ontario.

The following teams won first place in the following categories:

- Aquatic Ecology: High School- Middleton, Middle School- Fox River Academy
- Forestry: High School- Island City Academy, Middle School-Wildland
- Soils and Land Use: High School- Middleton, Middle School- Fox River Academy
- Wildlife: High School-Luxemburg-Casco, Middle School-Fox River Academy
- Team Presentations: Luxemburg-Casco, Middle School-Wildland
- Overall: High School-Middleton, Middle School-Fox River Academy

For a complete list of second and third place winners, please visit:

<http://wisconsinlandwater.org/events/envirothon>



Forestry station



Wildlife station – skull identification

The Wisconsin Envirothon is a program of the Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association's Youth Education Committee and is made possible by the many generous volunteers made up of natural resource professionals and educators. The Wisconsin Envirothon also relies on the volunteer and financial support of many of our agency partners, county conservation departments, and organizations and businesses dedicated to conservation. For a complete list of our financial supporters, visit our website or find us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/wienvirothon/>.



2016 Fee-Free Days on Federally Managed Lands

In late 2015, several federal land management agencies announced fee-free days for 2016, including National Public Lands Day (NPLD) on September 24. A fee-free day is when forests, parks, refuges, and rangelands offer free entry or waive the standard amenity fee for visitors.



Along with NPLD, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Veterans Day are free entrance days at Bureau of Land Management National Park Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and US Forest Service lands. There are also additional fee-free days specific to agencies. The National Park Service will provide free entry the weekend of August 25 to celebrate its 100th birthday and US Fish and Wildlife Service will provide free entry on October 9 to mark the first Sunday of National Refuge Week.



Bureau of Land Management - www.blm.gov

- January 18 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- February 13 to 15 – Presidents' Day Weekend
- September 24 – National Public Lands Day
- November 11 – Veterans Day

National Park Service - www.nps.gov

- January 18 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- April 16 to 24 – National Park Week
- August 25 to 28 – National Park Service Birthday Weekend
- September 24 – National Public Lands Day
- November 11 – Veterans Day

Army Corps of Engineers - www.usace.army.mil

- September 24 – National Public Lands Day
- November 11 – Veterans Day Weekend

US Fish & Wildlife Service - www.fws.gov

- January 18 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- February 13 to 15 – Presidents' Day Weekend
- September 24 – National Public Lands Day
- October 9 – First Sunday of National Wildlife Refuge Week
- November 11 to 13 – Veterans Day Weekend

US Forest Service - www.fs.fed.us

- January 18 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- February 15 – Presidents' Day
- June 11 – National Get Outdoors Day
- September 24 – National Public Lands Day
- November 11 – Veterans Day

Visit www.neefusa.org for more information. Also visit www.everykidinapark.gov for information on how your 4th grader can get a pass for free into any federal lands!



Wisconsin Children's Outdoor Heritage Resolution Passes Legislature

Information from <http://einwisconsin.org>



At a time when it seems political divides are more severe than ever, it is important to recognize and celebrate the occasions when we do agree. In late 2015, the Wisconsin legislature passed a bipartisan resolution recognizing the importance of children's access to Wisconsin's outdoor resources and activities. The **Wisconsin Children's Outdoor Heritage Resolution** was co-sponsored by Rep. Chris Taylor (D-Madison) and Rep. Jeremy Thiesfeldt (R-Fond du Lac) and approved by legislators from both parties in both houses.

Among other things, the resolution recognizes that "due to urbanization and technological advancements of our society, children are becoming less connected to the natural world, which threatens their health, quality of life, readiness for future job opportunities, and the future of our natural resources." It further acknowledges that "children who frequently spend time outdoors have significantly less stress, develop enhanced sensory perception, experience fewer attention difficulties and decreased rates of physical and emotional illness and obesity, and are more likely to become lifelong participants in Wisconsin's rich outdoor traditions."



Given these shared understandings, the legislature affirmed "the benefits of participation in outdoor activities" and encouraged parents and guardians to take the time to explore Wisconsin's outdoors with their children. Other groups that helped pass this resolution are the Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education (www.waee.org) and the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters (info@conservationvoters.org).

Here are edited excerpts from the resolution – the full text can be found on the Wisconsin State Legislature website at: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2015/related/proposals/ajr27>.

"Wisconsin is a land rich in natural beauty and glorious landscapes, readily available to be shared with the children and families of the state, and has led the nation in a long tradition of environmental protection and conservation. Due to urbanization and technological advancements of our society, children are becoming less connected to the natural world,

which threatens their health, quality of life, readiness for future job opportunities, and the future of our natural resources. Now, therefore, be it resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, that the members of the Wisconsin legislature recognize that every Wisconsin child should continue to have the opportunity to:

- discover Wisconsin's diverse wilderness: prairies, forests, wetlands, and beaches
- breathe clean air and drink clean water
- splash, play, swim, and boat in safe, clean lakes and rivers
- visit a farm, historical site, or orchard
- share a hunting or fishing experience with a family member, friend, or mentor
- follow a trail - ride it or walk it
- play, snowshoe, ski, snowboard, or sled in the snow
- camp out under the stars
- picnic and eat meals made from local products and ingredients
- play in the dirt, plant a tree, and grow a garden
- explore and connect with Wisconsin's natural spaces and wild places

The members of the Wisconsin legislature recognize the benefits of participation in outdoor activities, and encourage parents and guardians to make time to involve children in the wealth of outdoor activities that Wisconsin provides".



Finally, here are three things you can do to help more kids go outside:

1. Go Outside!

Time in nature is beneficial for people of *all* ages. Adults can encourage reluctant kids to go outside by doing it themselves and showing kids how fun it can be. Remember, you don't have to go far, and you can use technology as a "bridge" and learning tool. For example, you can watch birds right outside your door and then use the *All About Birds* website to identify and learn more about the ones you see. You can also use our website to find a nature center or park near you to attend a program or explore on your own.

2. Apply for a GO Fund Grant

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation (WEEF) just launched the Wisconsin *Schools Go Outside (GO) Fund* to help address the two main barriers to getting kids outside during the school day: 1) funding for transportation, and 2) connection to academic achievement. The *GO Fund* provides small grants to get to field study locations as long as the teacher can demonstrate how the experience will address topics currently being taught in their class. The program also allows staff at the field study site location to apply on behalf of the teacher with their permission. Learn more at the WEEF website: www4.uwsp.edu/cnr/weef.

3. Give to the GO Fund

We want every student in Wisconsin to go outside to learn and play. If you want to help us make this happen, you can contribute to the *GO Fund* through a partnership with your organization or through an individual contribution. "Buy a Seat on A Bus" for as little as \$15, or become a *GO Fund* Sponsor for \$500 or more. For more information about the *GO Fund* and sponsor benefits, contact jesse.haney@wisconsinEEfoundation.org.

Be On the Lookout for Crazy Worms: So Destructive, They're Insane!

By Nicole Shutt, USDA-USFS

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They mature in 60 days! They reproduce without mating! Their populations can double in one summer! And if you think that's crazy, consider this: they voraciously eat all organic matter they find!



Asian Crazy Worms (*Amyntas agrestis*) are a game-changer. Unlike Nightcrawlers (*Lumbricus terrestris*) and other European earthworms that eat the forest's fallen leaves, **Crazy Worms eat all organic matter, even plant roots!** In the process, Crazy Worms change the soil itself into a grainy, sand-like texture with reduced capacity to hold water or support any plants. These voracious worms can even damage ornamental plantings and lawns.

Native to Japan and Korea, Asian Crazy Worms were first confirmed in WI in autumn 2013 at the University of WI-Madison Arboretum, and despite the brutal winter of 2013-2014, the worms' eggs survived. In 2014, they were confirmed in five WI counties and within Appleton city limits. There are currently suspected & unconfirmed sites in northern WI and MI. **Now is the time to: 1) recognize this new invader, 2) prevent the spread, and 3) respond appropriately if you find these worms.**

Crazy Worms get their name from the way they behave when handled: they are extremely active, wriggle frantically, thrash about, 'jump', and can even shed their tails. Like Nightcrawlers, Crazy Worms can be from one to eight inches long, but the similarity ends there. While a European earthworm's *clitellum* (the obvious band around the worm's body) is raised, a *Crazy Worm* has a flat *clitellum* that is milky white in color and visibly different from the rest of the worm's dark body (see photo above).

Although Crazy Worms are currently a *Prohibited Species* under Wisconsin's Invasive Species Rule NR 40 (illegal to possess, transport, transfer, or introduce them in WI), these worms remain popular for composting and fishing bait. They are sold under the names "crazy worms," "Alabama jumpers," or "snake worms," and even if you purchase Red Wiggler worms (*Eisenia fetida*) for composting, it's likely the batch is contaminated with Crazy Worms. **Since there currently are no control methods for Asian Crazy Worms, our efforts must focus entirely on early detection and preventing the spread.**

Crazy worms are surface dwellers and are transported whenever plants, soil, leaves, compost, or mulch are moved. **If you suspect a site may have Crazy Worms, never dig up plants for transplanting, and never move any soil, leaves, compost, or mulch from that site.** Inspect any compost or mulch you buy, and if you buy plants, purchase bare root stock – you don't want to get "bonus" worms! Anything that moves soil will move worms, so whether working or recreating, remember to clean all tools, equipment, and tires before leaving a site. When fishing, make a commitment to 'Contain Those Crawlers' by always disposing of unused bait in the trash. These simple habits will help prevent the introduction all non-native worms, not just the crazy ones.

If you suspect you've seen Crazy Worms, please contact WRISC and also Bernie Williams of the WI DNR (bernadette.williams@wisconsin.gov or 608-266-0624). Visit these websites to learn about Crazy Worms:

- WDNR Crazy Worm Fact Sheet - <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/documents/CrazyWormFactSheet.pdf>
- Great Lakes Worm Watch - http://www.nrri.umn.edu/worms/identification/european_asian.html



Turtle in the Road! - What Should I Do?

From www.turtleleague.com



Help them across, but safely. While helping the turtle, busy streets are dangerous for would-be rescuers and turtles alike. Put on your hazard lights and pull fully off the road. Make sure other drivers see you, before stepping onto a road.

You mostly see turtles crossing roads between April and October. In spring male turtles are looking for females and territory, while females are looking for places to nest. During the late summer and fall, hatchlings are emerging from nests and adults are looking for places to hibernate. Sometimes they are migrating to a more suitable spot to live.

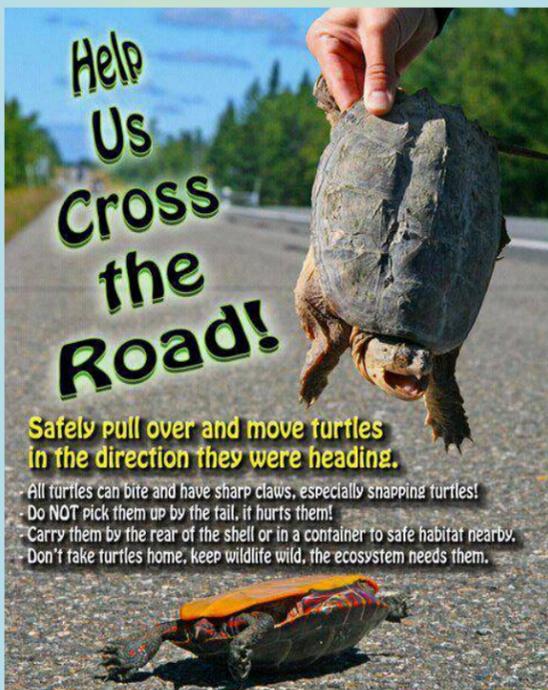
I Want to Help, What do I do?

Turtles have primitive ears and can't hear oncoming traffic or car horns.

- ✓ First, determine if the turtle is injured - if so it may need to be taken to a vet or wildlife center.
- ✓ When picking up a small turtle, grasp it on either side of its shell behind the front legs. The turtle will still be able to kick at you, but may choose to stay safely tucked inside the shell.
- ✓ Keep the turtle low to the ground when moving it. Even small turtles have surprising strength - if a turtle pushes free of your grip, you don't want it to fall and injure itself.
- ✓ If the turtle is large (with a long tail), it may be a snapping turtle - they can be aggressive and you might not want to attempt picking it up, but you can still help it across the road. If helping a big turtle such as a snapper, push it from behind with a blunt object (nothing sharp, as you don't want to hurt it).

NEVER, EVER, PICK UP ANY TURTLE BY THE TAIL; IT CAN INJURE THEM VERY BADLY.

- ✓ Make sure to put the turtle in the direction it was heading, NEVER TURN THEM AROUND! The turtle is on a mission, and if you turn it around, it will simply go back across the road when you drive away.
- ✓ Once you have the turtle across the road, you can sit and watch to make sure it is heading off and not turning back around.
- ✓ Don't relocate the turtle. Many turtles have a "home range", a territory they call home, and when relocated, they will search out ways back. Besides risking many additional road crossings, some turtles, if they cannot find their way back will stop eating and just wander listlessly.



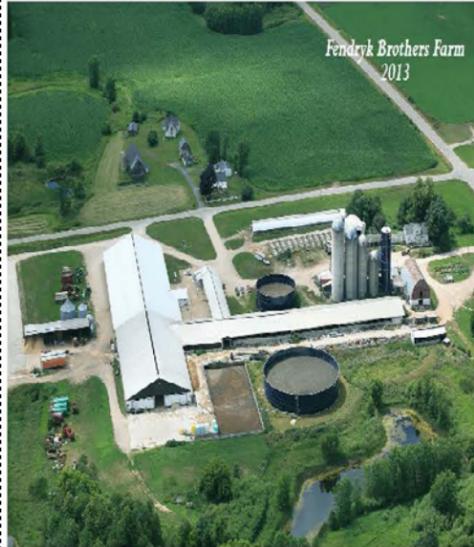
Safely pull over and move turtles in the direction they were heading.

All turtles can bite and have sharp claws, especially snapping turtles! Do NOT pick them up by the tail, it hurts them! Carry them by the rear of the shell or in a container to safe habitat nearby. Don't take turtles home, keep wildlife wild, the ecosystem needs them.

Marinette County Breakfast on the Farm

Sunday, June 26, 2016

7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



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, music

(No advanced ticket sales)

Adults - \$7.00 / Children 6-10 - \$4.00

Children 5 yrs & under - FREE

Fendryk Brothers Farm is currently owned by brothers, John & Leo Fendryk, who took over from their late parents, Roman & Mary, in 1977. John and his late wife, Alice, (who passed away in a farming accident in 2013) have 3 children: Chris, Josh, and Ryan, and grandchildren Angelina, LillyAnn, Alissa, & Hunter. All of them work on the farm either part or full time along with Ryan's girlfriend, Myrtie. Leo's daughter, Amanda, also assists part-time. Cecilia, sister to John & Leo, helps feed calves and does the bookkeeping for the farm. They currently have 10 other employees.

They currently raise feed for all their cattle on approximately 2,600 acres. They milk 600 head of milking cows in a double 10 parlor, as well as raising all of their young stock. Two new calf barns were built on the home farm in 2014. At about 4 months of age, the animals are moved to another farm located 2 miles west and the heifers return home for freshening. There have been many improvements over the years. Everyone works together to do all their own manure hauling, fieldwork, harvesting, and cash cropping.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST ON THE FARM!



What's New this Spring at the Harmony Arboretum & Demonstration Gardens?

There have been some changes at the Harmony Arboretum since 2015! The green house has been improved to demonstrate a 'hobby greenhouse' and has had some updates for a better workspace and storage. The Children's Garden Potting Shed (at right) is improved, there are a few additions to the Beaver Pond and the Pioneer Cabin, and there will be a new "Insect Hotel" at the Hedge Maze! Many programs are coming up in 2016 - see page 8 for the calendar of events.

Below: improvements to the Greenhouse



As for the insect hotel, the time has come for the construction of a new hotel within the Children's Learning Garden. Insect hotels have helped beneficial insects thrive in gardens and backyards for years. Introducing something fun and interesting to the design was inspired by a photo seen by a Master Gardener volunteer. This concept was presented to Dale Lange and his welding students from NWTC, who took on the challenge of creating a similar design



of a snail with compartments to house the materials that make up an insect hotel. As seen below, this large snail has been designed and welded together by the NWTC students, and is now in its new home within the Children's Learning Garden.



On Tuesday August 16th a hands on workshop for youth to build an insect hotel for their backyard will start at 6pm at Harmony Arboretum. Bring the family to join UW-Marquette horticulture staff and Northern Lights Master Gardeners for an evening of hands on learning about why insect hotels and beneficial insects are so important.



Area Events Calendar



- May 28 –Labor Day** **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/index.php/2014-10-06-18-45-29/museums> or call Marinette/Menominee Area Chamber of Commerce at (715) 735-6681.
- May-September** **Crivitz Flea & Farmers' Market**, every Thursday from May 26, 2016 through September 1, 2016, 8am-2pm across from the St. Mary's Catholic Church at 800 Henriette Avenue. Wide variety of vendors with arts & crafts, antiques, collectables and more! Contact Barbara Uhl at 715-854-2030 to rent space by day or season up to first market date. **BONUS FLEA MARKET – July 4, 2016 8am – 2pm.**
- June-October** **Stephenson Island Market** (new name and location). Marinette Farmer's Market will be at Stephenson Island, located North on Hwy 41, off the Interstate Bridge between the WI and MI borders. 2pm-6pm on Fridays, no Saturdays. For more information, please call 715/732-4333.
- June-Sept.** **Forgotten Fire Winery Summer Concert Series.** Every Saturday in June, July and September, noon - 4 pm. No carry-ins please. Visit www.forgottenfirewinery.com for a full listing of performers. **Starts June 4, 10am to 5pm.**
- June-Sept.** **Falling Waters Winery Summer Concert Series.** Every Friday in June, July, September, 5 - 8:30pm for live music at the winery. No carry-ins please. Visit www.fallingwaterswinery.com for a full listing of performers. In Crivitz on Dyer Street – **kickoff is on June 3.**
- June 4** **Family life-sized Game Nights!** Afternoon play at the Great Lakes Memorial Marina in Menominee. Unplug and unwind with the family on Saturday nights throughout the community with our life-sized games. Thanks to L.E. Jones, there is no charge to come out and play! Kids need to be accompanied by an adult.
- June 7** **Concerts in the Park – Marinette.** 6:30pm, Stephenson Island at Chamber of Commerce Performance Center, Highway 41-Interstate Bridge, Marinette, WI. *Neon Detour - Country Music.* Concerts are presented by Marinette Menominee Area Chamber of Commerce.
- June 8** **Bands at Badger Park.** Badger Park in Peshtigo. Wednesday nights, 6:30-8:30pm. *Daze 2 Nites.* Free musical entertainment with concessions available at 5:00pm. Call Peshtigo Chamber of Commerce at 715-582-0327 for more information.
- June 10** **Celebrate Summer Water Bash!** 6 – 9 pm Civic Center Pool. Live music, games and pool activities, plus pizza and popcorn for sale in the concession area. Admission is a summer program supply – crayons, chalk, glue, pool noodles – think summer fun!
- June 10-12** **Copperfest in Oconto.** Fabulous weekend of family fun with live music, entertainment, children's activities, street market, & plenty of refreshments. Friday 5-11p.m., Saturday 11a.m.-midnight, Sunday 11a.m.-5p.m. Small admission fee. For more information call Oconto Chamber of Commerce at (920) 834-6254.
- June 11** **31st Annual Kids' Fishing Derby.** Menominee Marina on First St. 8:00 to 11:00 am Sponsored by M & M Great Lakes Sport Fisherman.
- June 11** **Family life-sized Game Nights!** 6-9 pm Civic Center, Higley Field Recreation Area. Unplug and unwind with the family on Saturday nights throughout the community with our life-sized games. Thanks to L.E. Jones, there is no charge to come out and play! Kids need to be accompanied by an adult.
- June 11-12** **Michigan's Free Fishing Weekend.** Two days twice a year, families & friends can enjoy Michigan Fishing, for FREE! All fishing license fees will be waived for two days. Residents & visitors can fish on both inland and Great Lakes' waters for all species of fish. All other fishing regulations still apply. Call 906-228-6561 for more information.
- June 11-19** **33rd Porterfield Country Music Festival.** Green's Green Acres, 6 miles west of Marinette just off Hwy 64. Original artists, camping, live music, concessions and Nashville stars. Check www.countrymusicfestival.com or call 866-456-4333 for info & tickets, 715-789-2130 for camping and 920-834-2465 for concessions.
- June 13-17** **College for Kids - Hands on Fun Week.** UW-Marquette for students in grades 1 – 8. All day registration - \$140.00 (\$115.00 if registered by 5/20/16) Morning Registration Only - \$90.00 (\$75.00 if registered by 5/20/16) Afternoon Registration Only - \$60.00 (\$50.00 if registered by 5/20/16). All day class registrations & morning only class registrations will include breakfast, lunch & a C4K t-shirt. All afternoon only session will include lunch & a t-shirt. Information regarding classes will be posted on UW-Marquette website. For more information please call 715/735-4300 ext. 4343 or email linda.hornick@uwc.edu.
- June 18** **Family life-sized Game Nights!** 6 -9 pm at the Duer Gym, 402 Williams St. Unplug and unwind with the family on Saturday nights throughout the community with our life-sized games. Thanks to L.E. Jones, there is no charge to come out and play! Kids need to be accompanied by an adult.
- June 18** **5th Annual Jim Hodge Memorial Run.** All proceeds will be directed to the BAMC Foundation to support patients with lung issues and to promote organ donation in the Marinette/Menominee community. All donations are tax deductible. Run will be held at the YMCA in Menominee. Run starts at 9:00am, registration starts at 8am day of race or online at Jim Hodge Run/Active. Cost is \$25 for 5K and 10K.
- June 18** **Equity Park Flea Market/Craft Fair.** 9am to 3 pm. At Equity Park on State Highway 64. For more information call Shirley at 920-591-0237.
- June 22** **Bands at Badger Park.** Badger Park in Peshtigo. Wednesday nights, 6:30-8:30pm. *Sonny 'N the Heat.* Free musical entertainment with concessions available at 5:00pm. Call Peshtigo Chamber of Commerce at 715-582-0327 for more information
- June 23** **Concert in the Park ~ Menominee Marina Bandshell.** First Street. *Daze 2 Nites.* 6:30 – 8:30pm.
- June 20-24** **College for Kids - Gifted and Talented Week.** UW-Marquette for students in grades 1 – 8. All day class registrations & morning only class registrations will include breakfast, lunch & a C4K t-shirt. All afternoon only session will include lunch & a t-shirt. Information regarding classes will be posted on UW-Marquette website. For fees & information please call 715/735-4300 ext. 4343 or email linda.hornick@uwc.edu.
- June 24** **Kids Fishing Derby.** 8am - noon at Stephenson Island. Marinette Recreation Department and Marinette County Trout Unlimited are sponsoring the event with awards and prizes in many categories. Participants should provide their own tackle and bait. No charge, but pre-registration is required at the Civic Center. Open to children ages five and up. Younger children may participate with a parent. Call 715-732-5222 for more information.
- June 25** **Family life-sized Game Nights!** 6-9 pm Fred Carney Park on Ogden Street. Unplug and unwind with the family on Saturday nights throughout the community with our life-sized games. Thanks to L.E. Jones, there is no charge to come out and play! Kids need to be accompanied by an adult.
- June 25** **Concerts in the Park – Menominee.** 6:30 – 8:30pm, Great Lakes Memorial Marina Band Shell, First Street in Menominee, MI. *Everything under the Sun.* Concerts are presented by Marinette Menominee Area Chamber of Commerce.
- June 26** **Breakfast on the Farm.** 7:30 am – noon at Fendryk Brothers Farms. For more information contact UW Extension at 715-732-7510. **Check out the article on page 7.**
- June 26** **Annual Art for All.** Art show and sale will take place at the Great Lakes Memorial Park from 10am-4pm with over 50 artists from all over the Midwest participating. This is a free event with live music, performances by First Street Academy of Dance, food vendors and a children's art area with "Make and Take" art projects. Visit *Art for All* on Facebook or visit www.artforallinc.com. Rain or shine.

CONTINUED AT RIGHT

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 (#N8390). All programs are free unless otherwise stated. For more information, call UW-Extension at 715-732-7510 or Land & Water Conservation at 715-732-7780.



Thursday, June 2nd, 6:30 p.m. Weed Identification and Management. Learn to identify common lawn and garden weeds and how you can effectively manage them in your gardens.

Tuesday, June 7th, 6:30 p.m. Perennials Management & Maintenance. Learn about the proper timing and methods of management activities to help your perennial flowers perform and look their best.

Tuesday, June 14th, 6:30 p.m. Growing Strawberries. Growing the most popular small fruit in home gardens is more fulfilling when you know what types to establish and how to best maintain and manage them.



Thursday, June 23rd, 5:30 p.m. Invasive Plant Species. Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition and Northern Lights Master Gardener Association invite citizens to this free training to learn how to identify invasive plants and their best control options. Opportunity will be available for hands-on learning with controlling invasive plants at Harmony Arboretum.

Thursday, June 30th, 6:30 p.m. Super Fruits. Consider capturing the potential health benefits of some nontraditional small fruits by growing them in your own gardens or landscapes.

Thursday, July 7th, 6:30 p.m. Onion Diseases & Pests. The onion family vegetables have fewer pests than most other vegetables. but this

Calendar of Events, continued:

June 26 - BAMC Menominee River Century Bike Ride. Begins at Marinette High School & includes 5 routes through scenic & historical sites in both Marinette & Menominee Counties with 10 fully stocked rest stops along the way. The 15K Family Fun Route features a rest stop with games, prizes and kid-friendly snacks. Registration discounts are offered for early registrants, groups and families. For more information and to register, visit www.mrcride.com or find us on Facebook!

July 4-12 Area 4th of July celebrations/parades. Call village/town/city halls for more information on times or call the Marinette/Menominee Area Chamber of Commerce at (715) 735-6681.

July 9 - Meet the Fleet. At M&M Yacht Club, Menominee MI. 10am-4pm, take free boat rides on both power and sail boats. Call 906-863-7140 or email info@mmyc.org or www.mmyc.org for more information.

