

Northwoods Journal - September 2014

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

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The odds of encountering a cougar in the wild are very small and attacks are rare. However, should you encounter a cougar:

- 🐾 Face the animal and do not act submissive; don't crouch or bend over. Stand tall, wave your arms, and talk in a loud voice. A human standing does not resemble cougars' natural prey.
- 🐾 Never run from a cougar or other large carnivore. If children are present, pick them up so they cannot run. Running may stimulate a lion's instinct to chase.
- 🐾 If attacked, fight back with whatever is available. DO NOT play dead. Mountain lions usually try to bite the head or neck; try to remain standing and face the attacking animal.
- 🐾 Report the encounter to local authorities and the DNR as soon as possible.



To discourage cougars from coming around your home follow these simple steps.

- 🐾 Keep your pets indoors or in a covered outdoor kennel, particularly at night.
- 🐾 Install outside lighting, preferably with motion sensors.
- 🐾 Protect, fence, and shelter livestock, particularly at night.
- 🐾 Do not feed wildlife – it attracts potential prey sources. Landscape wisely, as cover attracts wildlife.

Cougars in Wisconsin

By Aleta DiRienzo, Database Specialist/Program Assistant, LWCD



The cougar (*Puma concolor*), also known as mountain lion, puma, panther, catamount, American lion and *mishibijn* (Ojibwa), is the largest wildcat in North America north of Mexico. It once roamed throughout Wisconsin, along with the bobcat and Canadian lynx. *Currently, only bobcats are known to breed in Wisconsin.*

Cougars disappeared from the state by about 1910, but reports again began to surface in the 1940s. These were probably escaped captive cougars or misidentifications. Since 1991, the DNR has conducted a standardized system of collecting reports of cougars and other rare mammals. *While there have been several verified sightings of cougars in Wisconsin in recent years, there is currently no evidence that they are breeding here.* DNA testing of biological samples and other evidence has confirmed that at least six individual male cougars have visited Wisconsin since 2008. Biologists believe these are male cougars dispersing from a breeding population in the Black Hills of South Dakota.



The Upper Midwest region has exhibited a substantial amount of cougar activity since 2008 when records of dispersing young male mountain lions began to increase. From <http://www.cougarnet.org/uppermidwest.html>.

Researchers theorize cougars now inhabiting the Midwest are using a "stepping-stone" dispersal pattern - moving out of a dense population, stopping at the closest patch of available habitat and examining it for mates and prey before moving on. One male cougar made its way as far as Connecticut in 2009, where it was hit and killed by a vehicle. In that case, the cougar had been positively identified in Wisconsin before its epic trek east to a suburban region near New York City. At the time, wildlife experts traced the cougar back to the Black Hills. Such dispersal is what cougars (and all offspring, including humans) are programmed to do - move away from home. If there is appropriate habitat in Wisconsin, they'll find it. However, cougars are usually shy and reclusive, and typically avoid people. *However, in some circumstances, there could be potential threat to humans if cougars are deprived of habitat and food sources (just as with any other wildlife species).*

The cougar is an excellent stalk-and-ambush predator and pursues a wide prey variety. Their primary food sources include deer, elk, and moose as well as domestic cattle, horses and sheep.



Cougars are excellent jumpers and have been documented to leap horizontally 40-47 feet and 10-18 feet vertically.

Cougars also hunt species as small as insects and rodents, and prefer habitat with dense underbrush and rocky areas for stalking, but can also live in open areas. Cougars are very territorial and survive at low population densities. Individual territory sizes depend on terrain, vegetation, and prey abundance. Although a large predator, it is not always the top predator in its range; competitors include coyotes, wolves and bears.



A common myth about the daily movements of cougars is they follow a regular and predictable circuit around their home range. This assumption may stem partly from observations of domestic cats or a vague attempt to apply human behavior to cougars. A variety of studies monitored cougar movements with radio telemetry and found no such patterns. Cougars move freely and arbitrarily about their home ranges and have never been seen to pass a fixed location at set intervals. As a stalking predator that depends on surprise to capture its prey, regularity of movement would handicap the cougar's ability to survive.

Cougars are not strictly nocturnal, as many once thought. Cougars tend to be active at the same time as their prey – primarily deer – so are active at dawn, dusk, and at night. Animals that are active near dawn and dusk are called *crepuscular*.

Size

- 🐾 Adult weight: 116-160 pounds (male) and 75-110 pounds (female)
- 🐾 Length: 80-95 inches (male) and 72-80 inches (female)
- 🐾 Tail length: 28-38 inches and ropelike with a black tip
- 🐾 Shoulder height: 27-31 inches

Adult coloration

- 🐾 Coat overall is tawny but can vary from reddish, yellow to gray
- 🐾 Belly, underside, inside legs and chin are white or creamy
- 🐾 Black-tipped tail
- 🐾 Some black on the front of the muzzle, below the nose
- 🐾 Back of the ears are solid black or gray
- 🐾 No black phases have been documented in North America, only in South America

Continued on page 3

Reflections from 2014 Sand Lake Conservation Campers

Contributed by Lily Lefebvre, Abby Wingender, & Riley Mueller

Conservation Camp

By Lily Lefebvre

I have gone to camp for two years now and had a blast doing it both years. I have learned how to make spinners and also learned how to tie a hook to a fishing line and tie a knot. I had wonderful counselors and cabin mates to help me learn everything. The junior counselors are fun too, they help with so much. They wash the dishes and supervise all of our activities.

I have taken archery both years. Archery is my favorite course because the counselors will put balloons out and we get to pop them if we hit the target. My favorite part of camp has been hanging out with my friends I have made during cabin time at camp. I have made lots of best friends at camp that live all across the state and some even in Michigan! I keep in touch with them and its super fun to hear how they are doing and all because of camp!



Another part I like is going canoeing. Canoeing is very fun because it teaches you how to row a boat. It is really fun during cabin time when some of my cabin friends will go with me to have even more fun in the canoe! One more thing I like about camp is the campfire-making contest. They are some of my favorite parts because it teaches you how to work as a group and as a cabin. It challenges us to build a working fire from some wood, paper, and matches. Another part I like is the bonfires we have. We always have s'mores and pudgy pies. Lastly I love when we have the scavenger hunt at the end of camp. We go around the camp site and take pictures or collect samples of things that are on our list to find. The last 2 years my cabin has won and it really brings us together to work as one cabin.



I love going to camp, but this is my last year. I plan to be going next year as a junior counselor. My brother will be doing his last year of being a junior counselor and he loves this camp just as much as I do! I wait for it to come every year! I am so bored all summer and then it comes to camp and I'm so excited for it! It is one of the only things I look forward to doing all summer!



Sand Lake

By Abby Wingender

Sand Lake Conservation Camp is a place where you can do a lot of different things. In the three years I attended camp I learned many things about the outdoors and made many friends.



Some of the activities involved water. One is when we put waders on then went into a little creek and tried to catch bugs. We caught difference kinds of bugs and learned their names. Some were creepy and some were cool. We met the Fisheries Biologist who told us that there are 152 different types of fish in Wisconsin waters. Another activity we did was canoeing. We were shown how to paddle, steer, turn, and make sure we didn't tip. We were also taught the safety of canoeing and wearing life jackets. So now when I go with family I am able to sit in any spot and help paddle it. There is also swimming which we were able to do in our free time.

We learned a lot about animals & wildlife. Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary gave presentations and brought the animals out when they were done so we could look, pet, and talk about them. An example is when they brought out the skunk and let us pet it. Luckily it was de-scented!



One big word I learned is "ovoviviparous" which means making living young from eggs hatched inside the body. An example is the garter snake. We also had a chance to hold and touch the snakes.



Sand Lake is near many different trees. We were able to take guided hikes around the lake. We were taught about the different types of trees and plants. A way I learned to tell the difference between a red and white pine is: a red pine has 2 needles in a little pouch, and a white has 5 needles, like 5 letters in the word "white".



Sand Lake is a place where you build campfires, learn about nature, meet people, and have fun! I would recommend it to everyone!

Sand Lake

By Riley Mueller

My experience at camp was great! I loved camp and will go to it every year if I can. I learned a lot at every station I went to and in the group things we did. In fun things we did as a cabin, I got to learn a lot more about teamwork and was able to meet a lot of new friends. I liked how we got a lot of free time. It was my first time canoeing and I loved it. The food was great and I liked that at free time you could have snacks. I enjoyed all of the stations I did.



My favorite was the challenge course (below) where we focused a lot on team work. We played a game called "Timber". In the game, a person stands on a stand and falls back into two rows of people who are holding their arms out to catch the person. It was really neat. I also loved the herpetology class, it was very interesting. I also learned a little more about reptiles and amphibians. I loved camp and can't wait to go back next year!



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

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



Area Farmers' & Flea Markets



Marinette Stephenson Island Farmers Market

Tuesdays from 3-7pm and Fridays 7am to noon on Stephenson Island in Marinette. Open each Tuesday & Friday through October 29th except on days when the island is reserved/events. Call 715-732-5139 for more information.

Crivitz Farmers Market

Outdoors at the Evergreen Market, 412 South HWY 141 in Crivitz from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturdays, June through October. Offering locally grown fruits and vegetables, honey, maple syrup, handmade soaps and personal care items, fresh-baked breads and other baked goods.

Crivitz Flea Market

Through August 28th, Village Hall at 800 Henriette Avenue (County A). Every Thursday and July 4 across from the Village Hall & St. Mary's Church at 800 Henriette Avenue (County A) in Crivitz. Thursday morning vendors can set up in any unreserved spot. For more information contact Barbara at 715-854-2030.

Oconto Farmers' Market

Held Saturdays, Mid-June through October, from 8am – Noon at the Oconto County Courthouse in historic downtown Oconto. For more information, call Hope Kersten at 920-834-7072.

Menominee Community Flea Market

Held at the M & M Plaza the second Saturday of every month, May through September, and also on Saturday, October 11th. Sales run from 7am-2pm. All spaces are free, first come, vendors set up in area by old car dealership. Questions call Holly at 906-863-4808.

Menominee Farmers Market

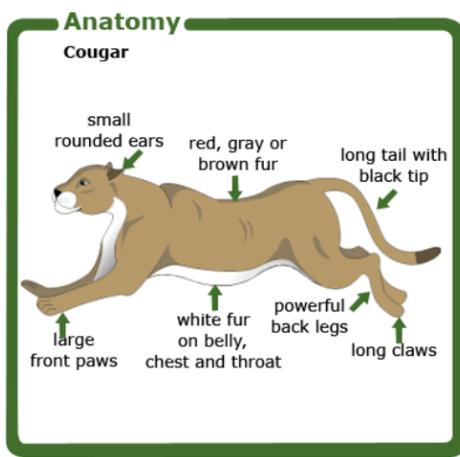
Located on the corner of 1st Street and 8th Avenue across from the Bandshell. Menominee, MI. June through beginning of October. Saturday market from 9am-1pm, and Wednesday market from 3-7pm. For more information, contact Lucy Pier at 906-863-8718 or visit online at menomineefrmkt@hotmail.com.

Menominee County Farm & Food Exchange

Located at the VFW Hall, 3937 10th St./Hwy. 41 in Menominee. Food and favorites from local producers 9 a.m. to noon most Saturdays. For more information call (906) 639-3377 or visit on Facebook online at <https://www.facebook.com/MCFExchange>.



Cougars, continued from page 1



Immature coloration

- 🐾 Young have dark brown spots until nine months of age
- 🐾 Light spotting may still be present until the cougar is two years old



Tracks

- 🐾 In mud or snow, 2.7-4.0 inches in length and 2.8-4.5 inches width
- 🐾 Round and often wider than they are long
- 🐾 No claws show up in the tracks - claws are retractable like a domestic cat. Be aware that some canid (dog) tracks may not show claws or nails.



Mountain lions can:

- 🐾 Bound up to 40 feet running
- 🐾 Leap 15 feet up a tree
- 🐾 Climb over a 12 foot fence
- 🐾 Travel many miles at 10 mph
- 🐾 Reach speeds of 50 mph in a sprint

The cougar's mating season is commonly from December to March, but can happen at any time during the year. After 82 – 96 days kittens are born, usually two to four, which the mother raises alone. The kittens nurse for two months, and then start to travel with their mother as she teaches them to hunt. They remain with their mother from 1 ½ - 2 years. Males that enter another male's territory have been known to kill the kittens so females will be more willing to mate.



Cougars are known to be largely secretive and mostly keep to riverbanks and wooded areas, usually avoiding humans while feeding on deer, turkeys and raccoons. Though the cougar's scream is a subject of some debate, the cats are capable of a surprising variety of vocalizations. While they are quite vocal during mating, it is unlikely that cougars roam about in the wild "screaming," as depicted in films. *To do so contradicts the cougar's secretive behavior and would also be counterproductive, as it would scare away essential prey.* Vocalizations include hisses, growls and whistles. It appears that whistles may be used to

communicate between juvenile cougars, and between females and kittens; additionally, captive cougars have been observed greeting familiar humans with distinct whistles.

Cougars are sometimes confused with other animals. Species mistaken for cougars in Wisconsin include house cats, fishers, bobcats, bears (tracks), dogs, red fox, coyote and wolves. Wild canids, such as wolves and coyotes, may have been mistaken for cougars if they had mange, causing them to have short fur and long rope-like tails. Mistaken observations are likely made when animals are seen under poor lighting, moving quickly, observed at long distances, viewed only in part, or misidentifying tracks.

The DNR is interested in receiving reports on cougar observations in the state. Contact them as soon as possible after a potential sighting. Online, the Wisconsin large mammal observation form can be viewed and downloaded at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/MammalObsForm.asp>. Include details of the exact location, time, date and description of the animal. Pictures of the animals and their tracks are also greatly appreciated; suspected tracks should have a ruler or other measuring tool in the photo (examples below).



Biological samples that can be tested for genetics may also be very useful - scat, hair samples, other body parts, or remains of prey species. Samples should be gathered in airtight containers. Avoid any skin contact of biological samples. Contact the WDNR before any samples are shipped. For questions, call 608-267-2108 or email Matt Wykle, Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation, at Matthew.Wykle@wisconsin.gov.

Sources:

- Wikipedia - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mountain_Lion
- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Online - <http://www.jsonline.com/news/wisconsin/126225413.html>
- Mountain Lion Foundation - <http://mountainlion.org>
- Defenders of Wildlife - <http://www.defenders.org/mountain-lion/basic-facts>

Other information:

- US Fish & Wildlife Service - <http://www.fws.gov>
- The Cougar Network - <http://www.cougar.net.org/index.html>
- Canadian Geographic - <http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/kids/animal-facts/cougar.asp>

Northwoods Journal Online

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Your Couch Is Far More Dangerous Than You Think

By Ben Klasky, President and CEO, IslandWood
Online source: www.huffingtonpost.com



Why are we so afraid to let our kids play outside, when we know that such activity is vital for their physical and mental health? Our fears are so extreme that in a few cases, parents have been arrested for allowing their children to play outside unattended. My mother would have been sent to jail on an almost daily basis.



Until recently, it was common for kids to come home from school, grab a snack, and head outside to play in the neighborhood. This was true for me growing up in suburban Minneapolis, and also for my parents who grew up in L.A. and Detroit. Even in the nation's city of cities -- New York -- children once played in the streets after school. There were games like stickball, hopscotch, and wild versions of tag. Author Bill Bryson jests about parenting styles from his childhood: "I knew kids who were pushed out the door at 8 in the morning, and not allowed back until 5 unless they were on fire or actively bleeding."



I believe this dramatic change in parenting stems from fears of what I've dubbed the *Three A's* -- *Animals, Abduction, and Accidents*. But our fears greatly exaggerate the risk of playing outside, and have the unintended side effect of increasing the chances of our kids developing serious health threats. Consider the facts:

Animal Attacks: As their natural territories shrink, top predators are living closer to urban centers (not far from my home, cougars have been found in Seattle city parks). **But in all of North America, we can expect fewer than three people to die each year due to bears, cougars, coyotes, and wolves -- combined.** Some researchers believe that our fear of these animals is innate, dating back to prehistoric times, when humans fell prey to bear-sized hyenas and saber-toothed cats. Today, however, the chances are miniscule of meeting our demise at the paws or teeth of a large carnivore.



Abduction: The U.S. experiences about 115 "stereotypical kidnappings" annually -- involving someone the child doesn't know, and in which the child is held at least overnight, transported a distance, and killed or ransomed. This is truly scary stuff. **At the same time, such kidnappings are incredibly rare... only a little more common than getting struck by lightning.**

Accidents: Each year, the U.S. can expect to see the following number of "outdoor" deaths:

- 5,100 car or bike accidents
- 3,500 swimming and boating drownings
- 1,000 plant, mushroom, and pesticide poisonings
- fewer than 500 other accidents from bee stings, horseback riding, overheating, hunting, snake bites, lightning, playground falls, skiing & snowboarding accidents, and trees falling on people.

Adding up all these statistics, we can predict slightly over 10,000 outdoor deaths this year. This is a small portion of the 2.5 million people who die annually in the U.S. -- over half of them from heart disease, cancer, and diabetes alone. **If your chances of dying outside measured four blocks long, your chances of dying from these three illnesses would be longer than running a marathon!**

Active outdoor time has been repeatedly documented to reduce our chances of getting all three of these deadly diseases. We are exchanging a small amount of risk for more certain health threats caused by a sedentary lifestyle.

Our neighborhoods have additional threats to children's safety, including gang violence, poor air quality, and lack of access to green spaces. These are complex issues that can't be solved by simply encouraging parents to send their kids outside. We have tough work to do such as monitoring parks, passing legislation to clean the air, and demanding quality urban planning. However, if we don't begin to address some of our most basic fears of getting kids outside (the 3 A's), we are unlikely to successfully tackle these more difficult obstacles.

Much of our fear stems from 24/7 access to sensationalist headlines. We are barraged by stories of polar bear attacks, kidnappings, and playground deaths. When you combine the abundance of scary news flashes with the psychological phenomena known as the "recency effect" (we remember best what we saw most recently), it is no wonder that we are afraid to let our kids run around outside.

As a father, I want to protect my kids, but my answer can't be keeping them indoors away from harm. Instead, I am focusing my energy on helping them be safer outside. I want my children to be crystal clear on what to do when encountering strangers, wildlife, and dangerous plants. I'm teaching them how to avoid street traffic, and how to properly wear helmets and life vests. **By encouraging them to play safely outside, I'm protecting them from a host of much bigger risks -- and they're having a lot more fun too.**



Ben Klasky is the President and CEO of IslandWood (www.islandwood.org), an innovative nonprofit organization that introduces thousands of low-income children to the outdoors each year. He is committed to serving at-risk youth, having led nature outings for children from Harlem and Chinatown in New York, and has taught in an under-resourced Louisiana school district through Teach for America.

Join us in October for the 3rd Annual Halloween Family Fun Fest at the Harmony Arboretum!

From 3-7p.m. on Saturday, October 18, visit the Harmony Arboretum for a 'spooktacularly' good time, with activities, refreshments, and games. See the Harmony Arboretum calendar on page 8 for more information. Below are photos from last year!



Visitors try out their 'mummy-wrapping' skills



Pumpkin decorating



Jumping and exploring in the Children's Learning Garden



Getting ready for the costume parade

For questions or to volunteer for this event, please call the UW-Extension office at 715-732-7510, or email gthompson@marinettecounty.com.



Hydraulic Harvester Provides a New Tool for EWM Control in Thunder Lake

By Chuck Druckrey, Water Resource Specialist, LWCD



Since the discovery of Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) in Thunder Lake in 1992, the Thunder, Island, & Eagle Areas (TIE) Lakes Association has been working to control the invasive plant and prevent its spread. For several years the association purchased and stocked a native milfoil-eating weevil with little success. In 2009, the association received an *Aquatic Invasive Species Planning Grant* to develop a plan for EWM control in Thunder Lake. The resulting plan recommended a two pronged approach - targeted chemical treatments for large beds of EWM and hand pulling for scattered plants.

Early season herbicide treatments were conducted in 2010 and 2012 with good results. Large EWM beds were greatly reduced in size, leaving scattered small colonies and individual EWM plants growing with native plants in 10-15 feet of water.

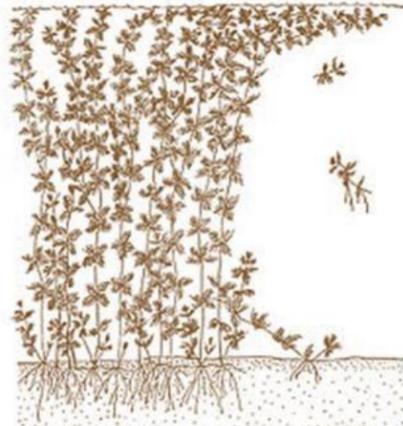
In 2012, the Marinette County LWCD used a *Wisconsin Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant* to build and operate a diver-operated hydraulic harvester to help control EWM on area lakes. The harvester consists of a used 24-foot pontoon boat outfitted with an engine-driven water pump & air compressor, suction hose, separating tank, and filtration system. In use, a diver on the lakebed controls a suction hose, uprooting and feeding EWM into the hose by hand. The plants are transported topside to the boat where they are bagged for disposal. Water is filtered to remove any plant fragments and returned to the lake (below).



In many lakes, scattered EWM plants are pulled by snorkelers who dive down to the lake bed, pull the plants, and stuff them in mesh sacks for delivery to the surface. Diver-assisted hydraulic harvesting differs from hand pulling in that the diver can operate in deeper water, spend prolonged periods underwater, and do a more thorough job of uprooting the plants. Like many perennial plants, EWM stores energy in the root crown; if you don't pull out the roots, the plants will re-sprout.



This summer marked the second year Marinette County LWCD divers have used the hydraulic harvester on Thunder Lake. While data from a pair of test plots is not yet available, areas harvested in 2013 show limited regrowth. This is especially true where the EWM is found in soft muck sediment where the diver can easily pull out the roots.



Hydraulic harvesting is fairly labor intensive. Each day the harvesting crew cruises areas of the lake known to support EWM, marking plants with temporary buoys. The harvester then anchors near the site and a diver is dispatched to harvest EWM within range of the boat's 40-foot long suction hose. When finished, the boat is moved and the diver starts over. The harvesting crew typically consists of two divers who rotate shifts underwater, along with our summer intern who keeps in contact with the diver through underwater communications gear, tends the diver's air supply line, and maintains the pumps and other equipment during the dive.



The county's AIS grant also calls for using the hydraulic harvester as part of an integrated invasive species management plan on Beecher and Little Newton Lakes. On Beecher Lake, the Lake District is still working to reduce the EWM population to a more manageable size through other methods so the harvester has yet to be used on the lake. On Little Newton Lake, herbicide treatments and hand pulling (below) were so successful no EWM was found in 2013. The lake will be surveyed again in mid-August and the harvester will be available to control any EWM lurking under the waves.



After two summers of harvesting, it already appears that the hydraulic harvester is doing an excellent job of controlling EWM on project lakes. With any luck, all three project lakes can eventually discontinue herbicide use in favor of routine hydraulic harvesting to control this unwelcome invader. If you have any questions about this project or EWM in Marinette County, contact our office at 715-732-7780.

When Leaves Fall, Fire Danger Rises

As September ushers in the start of a new school year, Mother Nature begins her process of settling down for the winter. Leaves turn colors and fall from trees; plants and grasses go dormant, leaving only crispy brown remnants of their green summer glory. **And, as the temperatures and leaves drop, the risk of wildfires rises.**

Wildfires occur any time of the year when the ground is not snow covered. The air temperature can be below freezing or well above 80. This wide range of conditions - combined with campfires and the burning of leaves, brush, and even trash - increase the opportunities for fires to escape and burn natural resources and personal property.

In Marinette County, the main causes of wildfires during fall are trees and limbs falling on power lines, campfires, lightning, logging or farm equipment, burn barrels, leaf and brush burning and ash disposal. Taking precautions any time you use fire outdoors is key to preventing wildfires and paying a hefty suppression bill should you start one.



Burning trash on the ground or in barrels in unhealthy and illegal and could result in a wildfire that costs you!

If you use a woodstove or fireplace for heating your home, empty ashes into a metal container with a tight fitting lid or dump ashes onto bare soil then drown the ash with water and stir until you're sure no hot embers remain. The same goes for campfires, burn barrels and burned leaf and brush piles – before you leave the area, drown the ashes, stir, and keep adding water until all smoke is gone.



Put out by drowning them with plenty of water.

Keep aware of fire danger year-round by bookmarking the DNR's fire Web page: dnr.wi.gov (keyword 'fire'). For those of you with smartphones, the state map of fire danger is now mobile-friendly.

Wisconsin has a long history of destructive wildfires. Oct. 8 will be the 143rd anniversary of the Peshtigo Fire, considered to be our nation's deadliest fire. The Peshtigo Fire burned more than a million acres of northeastern Wisconsin and upper Michigan, destroyed 12 communities, and took an estimated 1,200 to 2,400 lives. To increase fire awareness in Wisconsin, a 2015 "Wildfires of Wisconsin" calendar was created featuring historic wildfires in our state. For a free copy of the calendar, send an email with your name and address to Jolene.ackerman@wi.gov or call 608-267-7677.

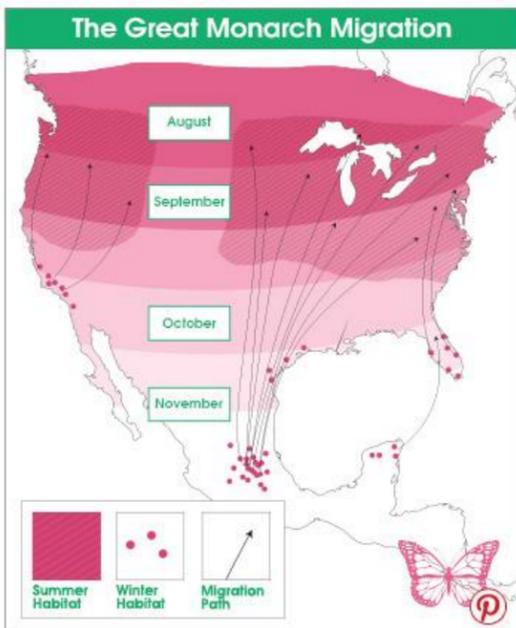


Monarchs & Milkweed

Information from *Butterfly Gardening in N.E. Wisconsin and the Southern U. P. of Michigan*, compiled by Adrian M. Konell, and www.menards.com (gardening information)



Each spring, hundreds of millions of monarch butterflies begin the journey of a lifetime, traveling up to 3,000 miles from Mexico and the Southern states in search of a place to lay eggs. Monarchs are the only insect to make such a trek! This phenomenon is especially unique because a single generation does not travel the distance.



Typically, four generations of monarchs span this yearly migration. The first three generations live 2–6 weeks, while the last generation will live for 6–8 months in the warmer climate of its winter habitat. You can witness the peak of the monarch population in your area according to your latitude. Monarchs in the Midwest will be at their greatest population from late August to mid-September – the further north you live, the earlier the peak will be.

The monarch butterfly population is at a record low. A combination of extreme weather events, habitat loss and an increase in pesticide use has reduced the population to its lowest level in many decades. The monarch butterfly needs help if it is going to continue to make its wonderful migration from the U.S. and Canada to Mexico and back each year.

To ensure more monarchs in your yard, encourage the growth of one very important plant - milkweed. Monarchs travel north in search of milkweed as a home for their eggs and food for the larvae (below). Milkweed leaves are the only food that allows monarch caterpillars to become butterflies, and it is found largely in the Midwest.



There are many types of milkweed, and all fall under the scientific genus name *Asclepias*, so be sure to plant native varieties for your area. For most gardens the swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)

is a beautiful well-behaved garden plant. Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) is also a beautiful plant with a wonderful fragrance when in bloom, but it can be a bit aggressive in a typical flower bed. For dry sandy soils butterfly milkweed (*Asclepius tuberosa*) is an excellent choice.

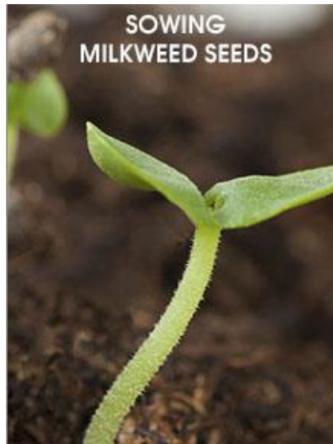
Gathering Seeds

Late in the growing season you can gather milkweed seeds from the pods of your existing plants. Watch the pods until they just begin to split – Remove the pod and open it to reveal brown, mature seeds. If the seeds are pale or white, do not bother saving them. The silky material from inside the pod will likely stick to your seeds, but this is easy to remove; simply place the seeds in a paper bag or plastic container and shake gently until the silk is separated from the seeds.



Germinating Seeds

For best results, give your seeds a cold treatment by placing them on a moist paper towel in a plastic bag. Store the bag in a cool, dark place, like your refrigerator, for 3–6 weeks (or once they start germinating), then plant in warm, moist soil. If you prefer, you can skip the fridge and plant them directly outdoors in the fall after a killing frost, but mark your seedlings so you remember where they are next spring! Sow seeds under 1/4" or less of light, well-drained soil in full sun to partial shade, depending on your milkweed species.



Planting with cuttings

Growing milkweed from cuttings may be easier, and may result in stronger plants than growing from seeds. Choose milkweed stems that are green, healthy and 1/3" in diameter. Cut stems at an angle in 4–5" lengths just below a leaf node. Use cuttings with at least 3 leaf nodes. After rinsing the cut ends, place stems in potting soil that is kept continuously moist. They should be ready to transplant in 6–10 weeks.



Plant native nectar plants to provide food for the adults. They like lots of colorful, native plants and flowers, many of which you can find in your local garden center or greenhouse.

Be aware that when you buy host or nectar plants for butterflies, that residual or systemic insecticides may have been used by the commercial grower or seller. These can be deadly to caterpillars and may harm the adults. Always ask the seller to verify that no insecticides have been used at any time.

Note: common names for plants vary from place to place, but the botanical names are the same everywhere.

- ✂ Nodding Wild Onion (*Allium cernuum*)
- ✂ Serviceberry (*Amelanchier* species)
- ✂ Lead plant (*Amorpha canescens*)
- ✂ False Indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*)
- ✂ Blue Giant or Anise Hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*)
- ✂ Purple Giant Hyssop (*Agastache scrophulariaefolia*)
- ✂ Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)
- ✂ Milkweeds (*Asclepias* species)
- ✂ Asters (*Aster* species)
- ✂ Milk vetch (*Astragalus* species)
- ✂ Tall bellflower (*Campanula americana*)
- ✂ New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*)
- ✂ Inland New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus herbaceus/ovatus*)
- ✂ Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)
- ✂ Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)
- ✂ Coreopsis (*Coreopsis* species)
- ✂ Purple coneflowers (*Echinacea* species)
- ✂ Joe Pye Weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*)
- ✂ Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)
- ✂ Early sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*)
- ✂ Orange Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*)
- ✂ Yellow Jewelweed (*Impatiens pallida*)
- ✂ Meadow blazing star (*Liatris ligulistylis*) (perhaps the best Monarch nectaring plant)
- ✂ Blazing stars (*Liatris* species)
- ✂ Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
- ✂ Great blue lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)
- ✂ Monkey Flower (*Mimulus ringens*)
- ✂ Wild bergamot or Bee balm (*Monarda fistulosa*)
- ✂ Beardtongues (*Penstemon* species)
- ✂ Prairie clovers (*Dalea* species or *Petalostemon* species)
- ✂ Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)
- ✂ Phlox (Native *Phlox* species)
- ✂ Wild Plum (*Prunus americana*)
- ✂ Coneflowers (*Ratibida* species)
- ✂ Wild roses (Native *Rosa* species)
- ✂ Black eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia* species)
- ✂ Fire pink (*Silene virginica*)
- ✂ Compass plant and Cup plant (*Silphium* species)
- ✂ Goldenrods (*Solidago* species)
- ✂ White Meadowsweet (*Spiraea alba*)
- ✂ Steeplebush (*Spiraea tomentosa*)
- ✂ Spiderworts (*Tradescantia* species)
- ✂ Blue vervain (*Verbena hastata*)
- ✂ Hoary vervain (*Verbena stricta*)
- ✂ Ironweed (*Vernonia fasciculata*)
- ✂ Culver's Rood (*Veronicastrum virginicum*)
- ✂ Wild violets (Native *Viola* species)
- ✂ Golden alexanders (*Zizia* species)

Use natural control methods for plant and insect pests whenever possible. Contact your local UW Extension office for information on non-chemical solutions to pest problems. A website forum on butterflies and native plants: <http://www.wildlifegardeners.org/forum/wildlife-gardeners.php>.



Proper Watering in the Landscape

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



The 'normal' growing season in Northern WI and the U.P. includes a four-week or longer dry spell. Almost all of our garden landscape plants will need additional water during these dry periods. This article outlines steps you can take to help your landscape plants be productive and healthy, especially since most areas are currently experiencing dry conditions.

The first two steps in water management are **plant selection** and **soil preparation**. *Native plant species are usually more adapted to our growing conditions than non-native plants, meaning that they can often tolerate drought for a longer time period.* However, even our native plants need some assistance during long-term droughts. If using non-native plants that you do not want to water consistently, try to select species that are drought-tolerant or that store water within themselves (succulents) so they can go longer between watering events.



Native plant species above (in parentheses) include common milkweed (Asclepias), coneflower (Echinacea), bergamot/bee-balm (Monarda), and black-eyed Susan (Rudbeckia). These are growing in a mulched front yard garden in sandy soil.

Another important thing to do is increase soil water-holding capacity. Over the long-term, probably the best way to do this is to increase the organic matter content of your soil. Do this by incorporating organic amendments such as leaves (don't use black walnut), straw, lawn clippings, compost, hay, etc. into your soil, with fall being optimum timing to let the materials degrade by spring. Another way to increase organic matter and to directly slow water loss to evaporation is by using organic mulches. Any mulch can be used to decrease evaporation losses, but organic mulches will also increase the nutrient and water-holding capacity of the soil itself. *By increasing the water-holding capacity of your soil you will generally increase plant health and decrease the amount of supplemental water you need to provide.*

A somewhat special situation is using pots and containers. Most people that work with containerized plants quickly realize they need to be watered much more consistently than gardens or landscape plants. Some plants, such as containerized tomatoes, may need to be watered every day. However, it is also important not to overwater, as root rot will likely develop. Using containers with water reservoirs (so you can check water levels) is a great way to water correctly.

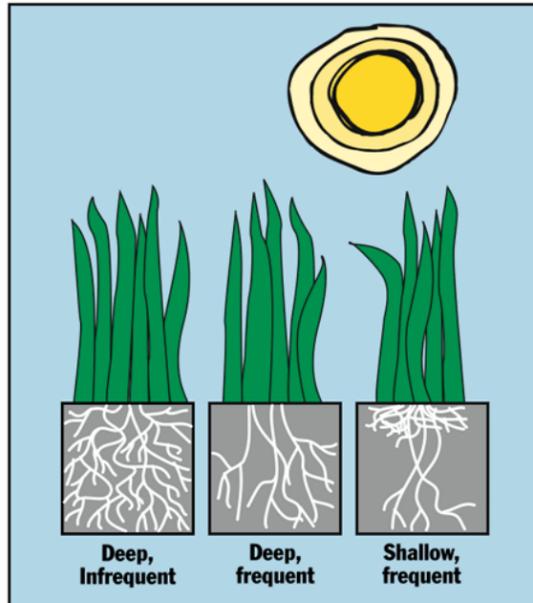


You can make your own water reservoir for large pots or other containers – look online for do-it-yourself instructions

Regarding the actual process of irrigation, remember to water the soil thoroughly and deeply. Although leaves are where the stress shows up, roots take up water and transport it to the rest of the plant. Light mistings or showers don't do your plants much good, whereas one or two deep irrigations of one-half to one

inch of water per week are much better for plant health. Most growing plants need approximately one inch of water per week during the growing season. Fruiting plants will require a bit more when fruit set and fruit sizing are occurring. If water availability is inconsistent, many fruits and vegetables do not produce very well, and even flowering plants will likely not be as showy.

When watering large areas, such as flower beds and lawns, sprinklers make life easier, but try to water in the early morning to maximize watering efficiency and minimize plant disease potential. If in doubt about how much water your sprinkling technique is applying, place cans of some type (note that tuna & cat food cans are one inch) in various places under your irrigation system and check for both consistency and the amount that you are applying.



Deep, infrequent watering is the most effective method of watering.

If watering individual plants or smaller beds with pails, watering cans, or other devices, it is slightly more difficult to accurately deliver the correct amount of water. In such cases, remember that one inch of water over a square foot of soil is just over half of a gallon. For example: if you have a 3'x8' raised vegetable bed, that equals 24 square feet - so you need a minimum of 12 gallons of water delivered slowly over the area to meet a one-inch event. Of course, just like containers, raised beds need to be watered more than non-raised areas, probably about twice as often.

One point regarding lawns: if you cannot water consistently, it is likely better to let the lawn go dormant during the heat of summer. However, if it has been dormant longer than four to five weeks, you should start watering it in late August or early September. This will allow the crowns to capture sufficient energy to enter winter in good health and have less likelihood of winter injury/death.

Trees and shrubs should be soaked, rather than sprinkled, using things as soaker hoses, slowly running hoses, or big buckets with a hole in the bottom that you fill up and leave until it soaks into the soil. When watering large woody plants, remember most of their root system is not by the trunk, but out near the drip-line of the tree. Also note that it takes a lot of water to successfully water a mature tree. *One rule-of-thumb is large trees need at least 15 gallons of water per inch of diameter, whereas small trees and shrubs need at least 5 gallons per inch of stem diameter.* It is particularly important to water younger trees, shrubs, and all conifers in later fall so their roots are fully hydrated prior to soil freeze-up.

If you have any horticultural questions or concerns, contact Scott or Gina at the Marinette County UW-Extension office, 715-732-7510 or 1-877-884-4408, or e-mail Scott at scott.reuss@ces.uwex.edu.

Your county
extension office



UW
Extension
Cooperative Extension
Marinette County

Fruit, Fun, and Food all combined at Apple Fest!



Apples are Americans' favorite fruit, in part due to the variation in flavors, textures, and colors, as well as their amazing versatility in food items. Apple Fest has been designed to help you experience some of this variation and versatility, while learning more about apple management and apple fruit preservation.

Apple Fest will be held at Harmony Arboretum on Tuesday, September 9th starting at 6 p.m. UW-Extension staff and Northern Lights Master Gardener Volunteers will be leading attendees through discussions regarding fruit tree management, proper apple harvest timing and methods, fruit preservation, and taste-testing an array of fresh apple fruits and freshly made apple dishes.

Attendees are encouraged to take an active part in this event, and are welcome to share their own favorite apples or apple dishes. If you want to bring an apple cultivar for taste-testing, please bring only known cultivars. If bringing an apple dish, please bring at least one copy of the recipe with all ingredients listed.

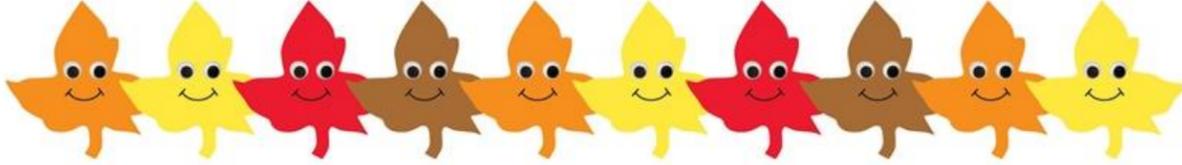
The entrance fee for this event is your smile, as you get ready to learn, enjoy all different types of apples and dishes, and experience a part of what the apple has to offer. If you have any questions about apples or this event, contact Scott or Gina at the Marinette County UW-Extension office – 715-732-7510 or e-mail to scott.reuss@ces.uwex.edu. You are also welcome to bring samples of any pest problems your fruit trees have experienced in 2014 – but we won't be doing any sampling of these!



The finished Enabling Garden at the Harmony Demonstration Gardens, including wheelchair-accessible planters and a potting table.



Area Events Calendar



- 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 www.therealnorth.com/entertainment/museums.
- September 27** **Peshtigo Historical Day.** Firetower walk/run at 8am with registration from 6:30-7:45am. Parade starts at 10:30am. All main events at Badger Park – no admission charged. Activities include: horseshoe tournament, live music from 11:30am to 9:30pm, craft booths, food, balloon jumping equipment and games all day.
- September 27** **Crivitz Fall Harvest-fest Craft Show.** Over 70 crafters displaying their items at the Crivitz High School from 8:30am-2pm with concessions sold, fall decorating needs and bake sale. No entry fee, please bring a food item for the Crivitz Food Pantry. For more information contact Jolene Huc at 715-854-2721, ext. 442.
- September 27** **Forgotten Fire Winery Anniversary Event.** 11am-4:30pm. Live music, grilling for charity, prize drawings, and more! Location: N2393 Schacht Road, Marinette. Call 715-582-FIRE (3473) for more information or check website www.forgottenfirewinery.com.
- September 27 & 28** **ON-CAMERA WORKSHOP WITH FILMMAKER MICHAEL MCGUIRE.** 9am – 1pm at UW-Marinette. Professional filmmaker Michael McGuire visits UW-Marinette from Los Angeles to offer a workshop in on-camera performance to men and women age 10 and above of any experience level. Learn the grammar of cinema, perform scenes on camera and receive a digital file of your work. Cost \$75.00 each. Information please visit: marinette.uwc.edu/community/continuing-ed or call: 715-735-4300 x4342
- Thru October** **'Tour de Taco' Ride.** Weekly bike ride on Thursdays at 6pm, join us for a one hour ride with beverages and tacos after the ride at Cycle Path, 2329 13th Street, Menominee. Questions call 906-863-9361 or visit online at cyclepath360.com.
- October 4** **Wausaukee Fall Festival. Starts at 9 am.** Village-wide event with crafters, vendors, bake sales, kids' games, food, music, sidewalk sales, farmers markets & more! 5k run, Daze 2 Nites Band 11am-3pm. Takes place all along hwy. 141 through Wausaukee. For more information or to be a vendor, contact Sharon at Northwoods Traditions, 715-927-7471 or email fallfestival2@gmail.com.
- October 12** **13th Annual Holiday Craft Fair.** Crafters and vendors wanted for the Annual Holiday Craft Fair at the Grace Lutheran Church, Pembine, WI. For more information or an application call Shirley @ 715-324-5464 or Nada @ 906-221-1921.
- October 26** **GERMANFEST.** 1pm at Little River Country Club. German fare and family-style chicken dinner, 2-4pm German musical show featuring the popular Dorf Kapelle Band. Advance tickets \$40 available at BAMC Gift Shop, Schloegel's Restaurant and both locations at Angeli's Foods. Proceeds go to support Women's Health Screening.
- November 21** **4th Annual Deer Hunter Widow's Night.** 6pm to 8 pm at Forgotten Fire Winery. Check their website for more information at www.forgottenfirewinery.com.
- November 29** **Christmas in the Village.** Christmas is coming to Crivitz! Saturday, November 29th from 10am-2pm at the Crivitz Village Hall, 800 Henriette Avenue in downtown Crivitz. Photos with Santa, free holiday craft making, Christmas cookies, bring mittens, socks or hats for the "Mitten Tree", and FREE horse drawn wagon rides. For more information, contact Debbie Atwood at 715-854-2891.
- December 13** **Jingle and Mingle Holiday Open House at Forgotten Fire Winery.** 11:00am-5:00pm, holiday specials, build your own gift box, and prize drawings. Check out www.forgottenfirewinery.com for more information.

For upcoming winter events, visit the Marinette County Events Calendar at www.therealnorth.com or the Marinette-Menominee Chamber of Commerce at www.mandmchamber.com.

Eagle Project Approved for the Children's Learning Garden

Danny Hammer, 15 year old son of David and Amy Hammer of Peshtigo, has been in scouting for 8 years and is working on becoming an Eagle Scout. He is a member of Peshtigo Troop 1054. As part of becoming an Eagle Scout he has to do a community project and has decided on building a pirate ship-themed sand box and benches at the Children's Learning Garden in the Harmony Demonstration Gardens, located at N3890 County E, just outside of Peshtigo. Here kids can play and learn interesting things about gardening. Adults can look at and learn about beautiful plants and enjoy another aspect of nature close to home.



Danny first met with several master gardeners and Gina Thompson from the UW-Extension Office to get permission to proceed with the project. Next,

he needed an okay from Bay Lakes Council to make sure the project meets Boy Scouting requirements.

Now the project has approval and the real work begins on raising enough money to get the project started. The estimated cost is just over \$600. The actual plan consists of a 3 ½ foot by 8 ½ foot pirate ship shaped sandbox, complete with mast, flags, and a captain's wheel. Danny is also constructing six Aldo Leopold benches. Two benches will be scaled to child size for the children's area. The four remaining benches will be adult-size for parents & visitors to enjoy.

Hammer invites anyone who wishes to donate to send a check to: UW-Extension office c/o Master Gardner's – Eagle Project, 1926 Hall Avenue Marinette, WI, 54143. For anyone that has questions, please call 715-938-5610.

Updates to follow in 2015's Northwoods Journal issues!

Harmony Arboretum Fall Schedule of Events



Edwards' Hairstreak butterfly

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.

September 6 – Plant Sale, 9:00 a.m. to noon

Fall is a great time to plant. Plants grown by Northern Lights Master Gardeners will be sold at the Harmony Demonstration Gardens. Proceeds are used for educational programming.

September 9 – Apple Fest, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Applesauce, apple cobbler, and apple pie are just the start of the wondrous foods that utilize Wisconsin's favorite tree fruit. In addition to discussions on apple harvest, preservation, and cooking tips, we'll taste test different apple cultivars and numerous apple incorporating recipes. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own favorite apple-based treat (see page 7).



September 23 – Late Potato & Sweet Potato Harvest, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Enjoy both late season potato cultivars and the different types of sweet potatoes that can be grown in our environment. Learn proper harvest and storage techniques for these nutritious vegetables to maximize long-term enjoyment.

October 11 – Fall Fruit Management, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Activities we do now can very positively impact the quality and quantity of next year's fruit crops. We'll review and demonstrate various steps to help get berries, tree fruits, and vine crops ready for 2015.

October 16 – Astronomy at the Arboretum 7:30-8:45 p.m.

Spend an evening under the stars! Introduction to stars, constellations, star lore, and other space-related topics - includes a stargazing tour. Dress for the weather, hot beverages will be provided; if inclement weather, event will be cancelled. Another program is scheduled for November 13 from 6:15-7:30 p.m.



October 18 – Halloween Family Fun Fest, 3-7 p.m.

A family event for kids of all ages. Spooky things, games, & activities to keep all family members busy for your entire visit. Nature crafts, storytelling, and pumpkin decorating for children and adults. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Check the website nearer the date for more program details (see page 4 for photos from last year!).