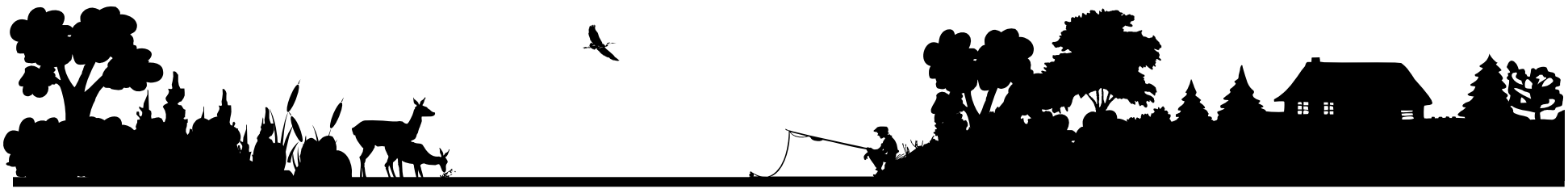

Northwoods Journal – September 2011

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

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Peshtigo River Trail Paddle Trip

Saturday, September 17th
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Enjoy a leisurely paddle on the Lower Peshtigo River from the City of Peshtigo boat landing to the County Rd. BB boat landing. Bring your own canoe/kayak, or reserve one of our canoes (6 available). There are also several kayaks available at minimal cost, courtesy of Bill St. Martin of the Cycle Path in Menominee, MI. Canoe/Kayak reservations start August 29 at 9 a.m. Canoes require a $25 refundable deposit; kayaks cost $10 for a single and $15 for a double (cash or check only, please). Kayak fees are non-refundable.

Youth under 18 must be accompanied by an adult, and you must provide your own snacks, water, etc. To register, reserve a canoe/kayak, or for more information about the event, please call the Land & Water Conservation office at 715-732-7780.

Phragmites Control Project Update

By Robert Ruleau, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant funded Phragmites control project is anticipated to begin later this summer and early fall in northeast Wisconsin. Private property owners living along the Green Bay shoreline in Marinette County can expect to see plenty of activity in their backyards shortly after Labor Day.

As highlighted in previous Northwoods Journal articles, non-native Phragmites is a large wetland plant that has taken over the western shores of Green Bay and is swiftly spreading to inland areas across the southern third of Marinette County. These invasive plants have been blocking views of the water and impeding recreation for more than a decade.

*Phragmites infestation in a wetland **before** treatment, from www.wildlifewetlands.com*

Phragmites spread very aggressively and outcompete native plants that fish and wildlife depend on for food and cover. In short, the current invasive plant growth is poor habitat for a variety of animals that would normally occupy a diverse shoreline wetland. The overall goal of the project is to remove Phragmites so that native plants such as sedges, rushes and a variety of both common and endangered plant species have a chance to grow. This will also allow property owners the chance to gain their view of the water back and provide access to that valuable water resource, which is now nearly inaccessible because of the fence-like growth.

People dwarfed by Phragmites plants, photo from www.kingcounty.gov

The control methods will consist of initial aerial sprays and follow-up ground treatments in following years. The large, dense stands along the western shore of Green Bay will be aerially treated via helicopter and boom sprayer. The herbicide being used is called *Habitat*, which targets an enzyme found only in plants. *Habitat* herbicide is approved by the EPA for treat - ments in or near aquatic environments and has

Aerial spraying of phragmites, from www.wildlifewetlands.com

proven to have no adverse impacts on fish and other wildlife.

Approximately 3,300 acres of Phragmites will be removed from the western shores of Green Bay in Marinette, Oconto, and Brown Counties. Because of the smaller, more isolated stands found in Door, Sheboygan and Manitowoc Counties, a more targeted ground application will be used in those areas in the first year of treatment.

*A wetland **after** treatment with native plants restored, from www.wildlifewetlands.com*

Marinette County Land Information Department - Land and Water Conservation Division (LWCD) has been an active partner with the Wisconsin DNR during the lead up to the upcoming treatments. The LWCD has sent out project information and permission cards to over 300 property owners in the County. The Land Information GIS Mapping Specialist has been an integral part of the project, providing the DNR with detailed spray block aerial maps the helicopter pilot will use to determine which landowners opted to be included in the project and those that did not return permission cards or opted out of the project.

Overall, a total of 318 landowner permission cards and information packets were sent out. 307, or 97%, were returned. This phenomenal return is a credit to the property owners along the bay. Of the responses received, 304 were YES, giving permission for the spray. Only 3 landowners said NO. In total, about 300 acres on private lands will be sprayed. In addition, the WNDR will be spraying the Peshtigo Harbor Wildlife Area.

The anticipated treatment dates on the western shore of Green Bay are planned to take place after Labor Day. Updates for

Continued next page

Wildlife in Fall & Winter – Survival Strategies

By Greg Cleereman, Marinette County Conservationist

Photos from www.animalpicturesarchive.com

Even as we just start to look back on a very hot summer, our native wildlife species are starting to prepare for the challenges of winter. Wildlife species react to the changing seasons and oncoming cold in many ways. Some are obvious, such as the annual waterfowl migration or changes in fur color, like the white-tailed deer changing from reddish to dark brown (below) or the long-tailed weasel turning white. This article focuses on a few common wildlife species whose ways of dealing with the coming of winter are less well-known.

Many people know the monarch butterfly and their dependence on milkweed plants. Did you know this insect migrates south in fall just like birds? What makes their annual journey even more amazing is the butterflies migrating south in the fall are three generations removed from the individuals that came north the previous spring.

Upon reaching Marinette County each May, monarch butterflies die after laying eggs for generation number two. The second generation of monarch butterflies is born in May and June, and a third generation is born in July and August. These monarch butterflies all go through exactly the same life cycle, dying shortly after maturity when egg-laying is done.

The fourth generation is born in early fall, but does not lay eggs and die after a few weeks. Instead, this generation of monarch butterflies migrates to the same Mexican conifer grove its relatives came from! They live there for six to eight months until it is time to fly north and begin the process again. How these creatures, after three generations that have no interaction, know what to do, when to leave, and where to go is one of the miracles of nature.

Monarchs on conifer tree

Other animals, even though they don't fly, still migrate. Brook and brown trout migrate each fall, swimming upstream in November to smaller tributaries for spawning. Then they drop back down stream into wintering areas in larger streams with deeper water.

These seasonal journeys can reach several miles. Brown trout are the long distance champs in Wisconsin, traveling up to 18 miles in one study. Trout that don't leave the shallow tributaries run the risk of being frozen out.

Brook Trout

Many winged creatures don't migrate but stay in Marinette County all winter - although we may not recognize them. Common insect species whose name ends with "fly", such as dragonfly, mayfly, stonefly, deerfly, and horsefly spend much more time swimming than flying. They are more accurately called *aquatic insects* because, except for a few weeks of flying, they've lived underwater as gill breathing nymphs and larvae. By fall's end, almost all the winged adults are dead, having fulfilled their egg-laying purpose. However, there are still millions of these creatures walking, crawling, and squirming all winter on the bottoms of streams, lakes, ponds and wetlands. Some species spend up to four years under water before leaving the water to metamorphose into the familiar fliers.

Newly emerged adult dragonfly (bottom) from nymph stage (top); its wings will completely unfurl in minutes and then dry out for flying

Even the deer and horse flies that were particularly terrible this year spent the vast majority of their lives under water where they prey on other insects. As adults, they typically only live thirty to sixty days, but there are about thirty species that have different, overlapping flight periods. This means at least a couple species will be around to keep us company until frosts come.

Several species of Wisconsin wildlife hibernate. According to the Environmental Education for Kids (EEK) website, there are different kinds of hibernation. The "true" hibernators sleep so deeply that they are almost impossible to wake up. Woodchucks, ground squirrels and bats are "true" hibernators. A woodchuck enters a state called *torpor*, in which its heart rate goes from 80 beats a minute when active to 4 or 5 beats a minute when in hibernation. Its body temperature drops from 98 degrees Fahrenheit to 38 degrees Fahrenheit. Its incisors, which grow continuously and are kept short by all the gnawing it does, quit growing during hibernation. True hibernators do get up every few weeks to nibble on food, and in the case of the woodchuck, use an underground toilet room. When bats are ready to hibernate, they must find a place that stays above freezing. They gather together in caves called *hibernacula*.

Bears are not "true" hibernators. They are one of the "light sleepers." They are easily awakened from their winter slumbers. These in-between hibernators are simply taking long winter naps. Skunks, raccoons, opossums are also in this group. These animals breathe a little more slowly and lower their body temperature a few degrees while sleeping, but they wake up to forage between winter snows.

Spring peepers (below) abound in spring and summer, but disappear with the coming of cold weather in fall. But they don't leave or die - they hibernate, but not like a woodchuck. Spring peepers, along with other forest frog species like the wood frog, produce sugar-based antifreeze that allows them to be mostly frozen for extended periods without serious impact.

Phragmites, continued from page 1

specific treatment dates in Marinette County will be announced in local newspapers, the media and on the home page of the Marinette County website, located at *www.marinettecounty.com*. For project information, just click on the PHRAGMITES link in the Quick Links menu on the right side of the home page. For questions or more information about this project, please contact Robert Ruleau, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, at 715-732-7642 or email *rruleau@marinettecounty.com*.

County Landfill & Area Recycling Information

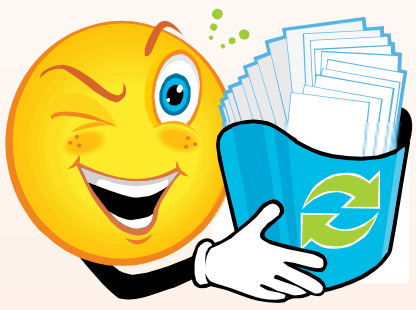
MAR-OCO County Landfill

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

2011 Hours
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
1st & 3rd Saturdays, April – October
8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Closed all other Saturdays, Sundays & holidays

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

For more information, visit online at *www.marinettecounty.com*



Recycling Centers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

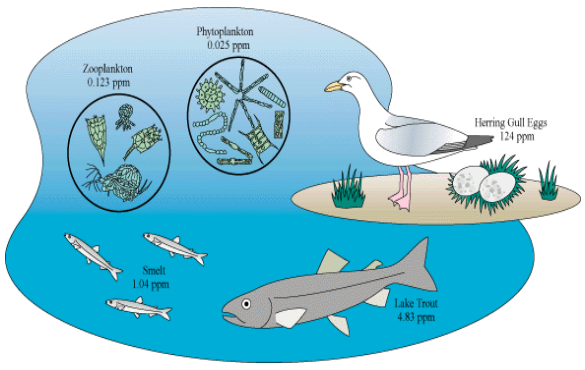
Algae in Lakes – the Good, the Bad, & the Ugly

By Chuck Druckrey, Water Resource Specialist

Few things in the lake ecosystem are more misunderstood than *algae*. Technically, "algae" refer to a large and diverse group of simple plant-like organisms that mostly produce their own food through photosynthesis. Unlike land plants, they do not flower and lack many of the specialized organs of the higher plants. Some algae are single-cell organisms, some form colonies, and some form multi-cellular organisms that resemble higher plants. They can be free-floating or anchored to the sediment or other surfaces, and some are even mobile. To further complicate the issue, common groups called "blue-green algae" are actually photosynthetic bacteria.

Algae growth on tidal mud flats in Alaska, courtesy of www.alaska-in-pictures.com

Algae are an extremely important part of the lake ecosystem. They form the base of the lake food web where they take energy from the sun and chemicals from the air and water and convert it to living matter. The algae are then eaten by microscopic *zooplankton*, tiny insect-like creatures that inhabit every lake and stream. This energy is transferred up the food chain as larger insects, fish, and birds eat the zooplankton. While aquatic plants also convert energy from the sun, it is algae that drive productivity in a lake.



Unlike aquatic plants, which tend to follow typical patterns of growth, algae populations can swing wildly from scarcity to abundance. This is because most species of algae grow and reproduce rapidly in response to changes in nutrient levels, light, temperature, and other environmental factors. When conditions are right, algae populations can explode, or "bloom" increasing exponentially in the period of a few days.

An algae bloom, courtesy of www.oilgae.com

There are many different species of algae in every lake, each with its own environmental preferences. For most of the year any one species will exist in low numbers or as dormant cells resting on or in the sediment. When conditions are right, the species will grow and reproduce rapidly, competing with other algal species for scarce nutrients.

In many lakes, the low light and cooler waters of spring will support *diatoms*, microscopic algae with a hard "shell" of calcium. In addition to receiving their energy from the sun, many diatoms can also absorb organic compounds from the water to obtain energy. When present in large numbers, diatoms can impart a cloudy tan color to the water.

As the water warms, *green algae* often take over. Many of the green algae are visible to the naked eye as colonies or macro-algae that "root" in the sediment and look like higher plants. As their name suggests, green algae often impart a green color to the water when present in high numbers. Some colonial forms of green algae are often responsible for nuisance algae blooms.

As the summer progresses, larger green and blue-green algae often dominate the algal community. Blue-green algae have the ability to absorb nitrogen directly from the atmosphere so they often have a competitive advantage over the green algae, which must absorb nitrogen from the water. Many types of blue-green algae also have large growth forms or coat themselves in a slimy coating that is unpalatable to zooplankton, increasing their competitive advantage. In nutrient-rich water, blue-green algae are often responsible for nuisance algae blooms. Some species of blue-green algae also produce toxins that can injure or even kill animals that are exposed to them at high concentrations. Typically this is only a concern when the water is pea soup green or covered with a thick scum layer.

Algae are also important because the amount of algae in a lake, more than just about any other factor, determines how we perceive water quality. For most people nothing detracts from a lake more than green water or a thick layer of floating algae. Even excessive weed growth will be tolerated by most if the water clarity is good.

Managing excessive algae growth is a difficult and expensive undertaking. Special harvesters can skim algae from the surface of a lake, but their rapid growth makes it difficult to keep up. Chemical control, while effective and fast acting, releases stored nutrients back to the water where it can fuel even more algae growth.

The best long-term solution to reduce excessive algae growth is to reduce the amount of nutrients available for growth. Nutrient sources can include such things as overland runoff, septic systems, precipitation, and enriched lake sediment. Pinpointing nutrient sources and identifying the most effective course of action typically requires professional assistance in the form of a detailed study of the lake and its watershed.

So you can see that with algae, like almost everything else in life, too much of a good thing is bad! Algae, while a necessary part of the lake ecosystem, can be a problem when they grow out of control…a problem for the lake and a problem for the people who live and recreate on it. The solution is to treat our lakes with care. If we reduce our impact on lakes they will remain in balance. If we abuse them, they will be thrown out of balance and suffer as a result.

Do you have algae-related questions? If so, contact Chuck Druckrey in the LWCD office at 715-732-7528, or email him at cdruckrey@marinettecounty.com.

Winter Survival, continued from page 2

This allows spring peepers to spend the winter under logs, bark or leaf litter and emerge in the spring unscathed. However, even with this internal antifreeze in winters with minimal snowfall, frogs can be frozen for too long and die.

Of course, all these adaptations to winter survival are useless to wildlife without adequate *habitat,* which is simply the place where an animal lives. **Habitat has four components: food, shelter, water, and space**. Unfortunately, some wildlife species cannot survive without the right kind of habitat, even with their specialized adaptations. For example, monarch butterflies are losing rapidly habitat in two main areas. First are the Mexican conifer groves, monarchs' winter shelter, which are being rapidly cut down. Monarchs also use milkweeds for food and shelter as they migrate, but unfortunately the use of agricultural herbicides has eliminated milkweeds from more than 100 million acres of cropland. Scientists estimate we have already lost about half of our monarch butterflies because of these habitat losses.

For trout, improperly installed culverts may not leave them enough space to meet their needs. Any culvert that creates a mini-waterfall blocks fish movement. Brook trout typically won't jump up into perched culverts. Other culverts may be too long for trout to swim the entire length. Anything that keeps trout from spawning areas results in fewer fish in the next generation, and ultimately fewer fish to catch and enjoy.

Bats must find hibernacula that are cold but not too cold. They must also be free from disturbance and White Nose Syndrome, a recently discovered bat disease, which appears to disrupt normal patterns of hibernation, causing bats to arouse too frequently from torpor and starve to death. These types of habitat are becoming increasingly rare, which forces greater numbers of bats into fewer locations.

For wildlife, habitat is always the most important issue. High quality habitat results in more wildlife species, higher numbers, and a successful transition from summer's bounty to winter's scarcity and cold.

For more information about winter wildlife:

- *www.monarch-butterfly.com* - Monarch Butterfly website
- *http://dnr.wi.gov/eek/* - WDNR Kids' Nature pages
- *http://mff.dsisd.net/Environment/WinterAnimals.htm* - MI *Forests Forever Teaching Guide* – Winter adaptations of animals
- *http://www.nrcs.usda.gov* – U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service – habitat

2011 Environmental Awareness Poster Contest

By Aleta DiRienzo, Database Specialist/Program Assistant

The 2011 Environmental Awareness Poster Contest theme **"Forests for People ~ More Than You can Imagine!"** is based on the 2011 National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) stewardship theme. You may also shorten the theme to read **"Forests for People."**

This theme **MUST** be used to be eligible for the national contest with the NACD. The theme briefly means that we want to connect people to the forest whether they have one in their back yard, in their state or no forests at all. We all have a connection to the trees in the forest that provide wood for our homes, furniture or cork for the center of our baseballs. We can thank trees that help clean the air we breathe. Trees play an important part in the lives of many farmers across the nation, for food we eat, how forests are managed and products we received from them. Forests are great to hike in as well as watching wildlife and birds. There is a lot to learn about forests!

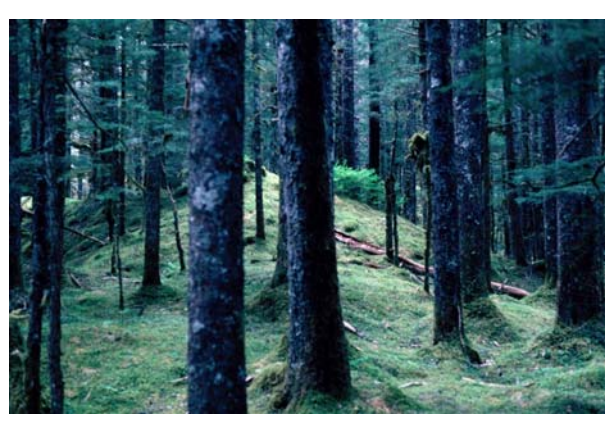


Photo courtesy Bruce Molnia, Terra Photographics

Why Participate?

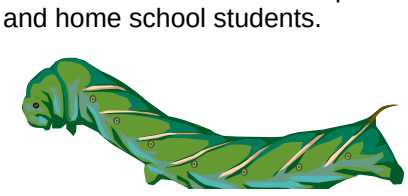
Designing a poster and researching the theme can give you a voice in your community on important conservation issues. Good posters tell important stories to present and future generations. Posters capture people's attention with a powerful graphic and inspire with a message to your community. Designing a poster also meets many of the national visual art standards.

Eligibility

The following entry form MUST:

- **Be fully completed.**
- **Be signed by a parent or legal guardian.**
- **Be attached firmly to the back of the poster in order to be eligible for judging.**
- **No other entry form will be allowed.**

The Environmental Awareness Poster Contest is open to Kindergarten through twelfth grade students. Posters entered the NACD National Competition must be judged in a local conservation department sponsored contest in the middle of October, and/or advanced to an area conservation association contest at the end of October and then advanced to the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association State Contest in Stevens Point in November. The poster categories are by grade: K-1; 2-3; 4-6; 7-9; and 10-12. The contest is open to public, private and home school students.



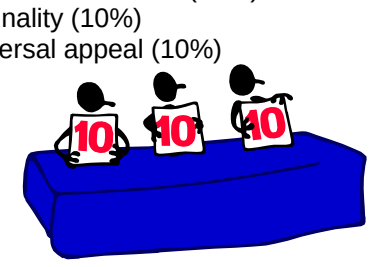
Contest Rules

- You may use crayons, paint, colored pencil, charcoal, stickers, paper or other materials on regular posters. NO COMPUTER GENERATED POSTERS.
- Poster size must be between 8.5" x 11" and 22" x 28".
- Posters, if mailed, should be packaged so they stay flat when sent for judging.
- All posters must be created by an individual student rather than a team of students.
- The 2011 Theme, ***"Forests for People – More Than You Can Imagine!"*** Or ***"Forests for People"*** MUST be on the poster.
- A fully completed entry form with parental signature must be firmly attached to the back of the poster. No other entry form will be permitted.

Poster Evaluations

Posters are reviewed by judges and are evaluated on the following:

- Conservation message - Using the correct themes (50%)
- Visual effectiveness (30%)
- Originality (10%)
- Universal appeal (10%)



How to Enter

Packets regarding the 2011 Environmental Poster Contest will be mailed to teachers the week after the Wausaukee Fair and 4-H Leaders before the fair. Be sure to talk to your teacher or 4-H Leader to get a copy of the rules and the entry blank. You can also contact the Land & Water Conservation Division at 715-732-7780 or send an email requesting information to *adirienzo@marinettecounty.com* to get a packet regarding the poster contest.

The entry blank can also be found at the Marinette County website. Go online to *www.marinettecounty.com* and on the left side of the home page click "Departments" – "Land Information" – "Information & Education" – "Environmental Poster Contest".

Posters are due by Friday, October 7, 2011. **Mail or bring posters to t**he Land & Water Conservation Division (LWCD), located on the first floor of the courthouse in Marinette, in the Land Information Department. The LWCD mailing address is 1926 Hall Avenue, Marinette, WI 54143.

Prizes

Marinette County LWCD awards 1st Place - $25, 2nd Place - $20, 3rd Place - $15, and Honorable Mention - $10. Certificates of Participation are given to all the posters entered into the Marinette County Contest. The winning posters will be displayed at the Marinette County Courthouse from the middle of November through the first week in January.

The Lake Michigan Land & Water Conservation Association (LMLWCA) sponsors the area competition. Prizes may vary. At the State Contest, sponsored by Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association (WLWCA), will give out first, second and third place plaques. Certificates of Participation will be awarded to all WLWCA Poser Contest level participants.

Prizes will be awarded by the NACD Auxiliary in each of the five grade categories accepted in the NACD Poster Contest. First place winners receive $100 and second place receives $75. The winning posters at the NACD Poster Contest will be featured at the NACD Annual Meeting in early February 2012.

Meet our new Clean Boats, Clean Waters Watercraft Inspector

Marinette County Land Information, Land and Water Conservation Division (LWCD) received grant funding from the Wisconsin DNR to enhance efforts to prevent the spread of non-native aquatic invasive species (AIS). Our new watercraft inspector will be doing boater surveys and invasive species checks on heavily trafficked County waters that contain Zebra Mussels or Eurasian Watermilfoil. Next season, we will have 3 inspectors and a portable boat wash station up and running at target landings! Here is a little background on our new CBCW watercraft inspector.

"My name is Brittany Terp and I'm the new watercraft inspector for Marinette County. I am a 2006 graduate of Pulaski High School and moved to Menominee, MI in June this year. In my spare time I enjoy photography, cooking, and sailing on my fiancés 16' sailboat. I am also a volunteer rehabilitator for the R-Paws program at the Green Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. So far what I enjoy most about watercraft inspections is being able to work in the outdoors with all the friendly and knowledgeable boaters, and doing my part to keep our state waterways clean and free of invasive species. I'm proud to be in partnership with boaters and sportsman to keep our waterways beautiful for future generations."

Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust Launches Land Conservation Campaign on Green Bay's West Shore

NORTHEAST WISCONSIN LAND TRUST
Preserving Our Natural Heritage

Appleton, WI, July, 2011 – A three-year $60,000 per year grant has been received by the Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust (NEWLT) for West Shore of Green Bay preservation.

The grant is part of a $1.2 million donation by an anonymous family foundation that cares deeply for the environment and vitality of the Great Lakes, according to Land Trust officials. Two other conservation groups will share in the grant. NEWLT will use the funds to hire a project coordinator and cover travel expenses for an area from Green Bay north to Marinette.

Land Trust staff and the coordinator will conduct outreach programs and work with individuals, community leaders, public agencies and other organizations to conserve wetlands, shorelines, and woodlands. One goal will be to help establish conservation agreements with willing landowners. NEWLT has more than 15 years experience in conservation efforts through donations of conservation agreements ensuring viable communities for generations to come. In some rare cases where there is a willing donor/seller, critical parcels will be acquired where no other option for preservation is available. The Land Trust has helped protect more than 4,000 acres of land in northeastern Wisconsin.

Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust is a private, non-profit, member supported land conservation organization. We are dedicated to preserving the special natural places that contribute to our natural heritage and sustain our quality of life. NEWLT depends upon support of individuals, foundations and businesses to achieve its mission of preserving northeast Wisconsin's natural heritage. For additional information, contact the Land Trust at 920-738-7265 or visit on the web at *www.newlt.org*.

Area Farmers & Flea Markets

Marinette Main Street Farmers Market. Tuesdays & Fridays throughout the growing season, starting at 7am. At Merchants Park at the corner of Main & Wells Streets in downtown Marinette. For more information call 715-732-5120.

Crivitz Farmers Market - Outdoors at the Evergreen Market, 412 S. Hwy 141 in Crivitz from 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. on Saturdays, June—October. Offering locally grown fruits and vegetables, honey, maple syrup, handmade soaps and personal care items, fresh-baked breads and baked goods, etc.

Crivitz Flea Market. Through September 1, Village Hall at 800 Henriette Avenue (County A). Every Thursday and July 4 across from the Village Hall at 800 Henriette Avenue (County A) in Crivitz. Vendors can show up on Thursday morning and set up in any unreserved spot. For more information contact Jean Behrendt at the Crivitz Village Hall at 715-854-2030.

Wausaukee Area Farmers Market & More
Through September 30, every Friday 9am-2pm across from Payant Park. Crafts and farm products for sale, vendors wishing to set up booths call 715-856-5341.

Oconto - The Farmers' Market is located on historical downtown Main Street in Oconto. Saturdays 8-noon, mid-June through October.

Menominee Community Flea Market
Will be held at the M & M Plaza the second Saturday of every month, May through September, and also on Saturday, October 1st. Sales will run from 7am-2pm, all spaces are free, first come, vendors set up in area by T – straight across from ACE. Questions call Holly at 906-863-4808 or *hbayerl@hotmail.com*.

Menominee Farmers Market. Timeless Treasures Antique Mall, 902 2nd St,, Menominee, MI. June through beginning of October. Saturday market from 9am-1pm, and Thursday market from 3-7pm. Call 906-863-8718 for more info or visit online at *http://www.culinate.com/market/MenomineeHistoryFM*.

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.

Successful Tree Planting

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

September and early October are still good times to plant trees in Marinette County. In reality, the only bad months to plant trees are probably July and early August, and when the soil is frozen. Successfully planting and establishing a new tree or shrub in our landscapes is not extremely difficult, but there are many things that can go wrong for our plants if we don't pay attention to a few details while planting.

Step #1: Buy quality plant material. Make sure to purchase adapted tree species and cultivars. There are many good sources of information available, but one resource that lists tree characteristics such as height, width, fall color, site needs, etc. is the UW-Extension bulletin A2865, *Guide to Selecting Landscape Plants for Wisconsin*, found free online at *http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Assets/pdfs/A2865.pdf* or contact your closest UW-Extension office to buy a copy. Ask the nursery where you are making the purchase how long the plant has been in the container or burlap. If they can't tell you, don't buy it. The less time that it has been in a container, the better, as the root system will have a better chance of establishing if it has not over-developed within the container. Of course, if you can get it cheap (i.e. clearance) and are willing to take a bit of extra time when planting, then go for it!

Step #2: Examine the root system. For containerized trees, it is best to make the tree into a bare root tree at planting, otherwise it might not plant correctly. Balled and burlapped trees are a slightly different story, as you need to dig down to find the **root flare**. The root flare is the area where the roots naturally curve away from the trunk. It determines your planting depth, and the long roots found curled inside a container dictate the size/shape of the planting hole. Pruning may be needed if the roots are damaged or not able to be straightened.

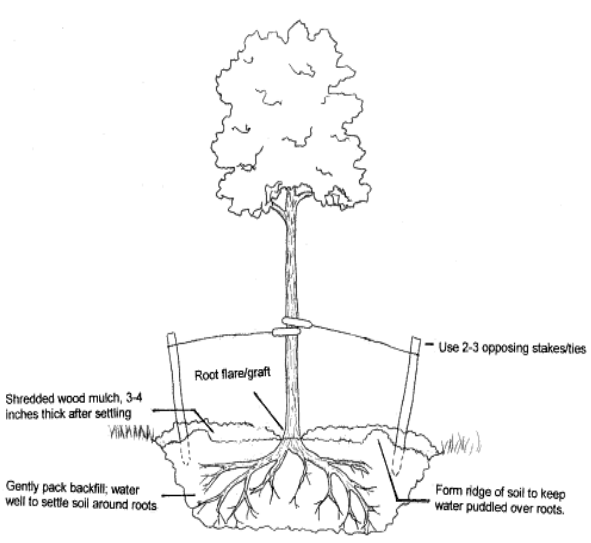


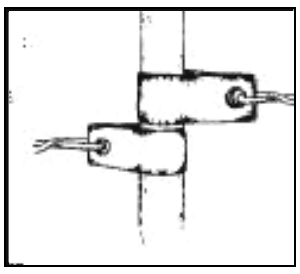
Diagram 1

Just as with the diagram, you want the root flare area to be just about at the soil line. However, be careful you don't get fooled, as trees which have been in pots for awhile will often grow false roots that come straight off the stem. These need to be pruned off. Make sure to plant at the actual root flare. Be aware that the average nursery-sold tree has about 4 to 6 inches of potting media above the root flare, so you will usually need to dig down to expose the flare. If planted too deeply, many tree roots will grow vertically to find oxygen and then start growing are roots growing around the outside of the pot, pull them away from the soil, and straighten them out (but carefully so as to not damage them).

Step #3: Dig the right hole. Now that you know the shape and size of the root system, you can efficiently dig the planting hole. Dig only as deep as needed to have the root flare at the soil line, and dig trenches to place any long roots into the soil, instead of digging an entire area. Start this process prior to taking the tree out of the container, to help keep the roots healthy, or simply keep the roots moist. Use water sprays, wet newspaper or cloth, or cover back over with loose soil while digging the hole.

Step #4: Fill the hole. Of course, the tree is first, but make sure to take all plastic, wire, burlap and twine off the tree. These materials will cause significant problems for the tree down the road. Double-check the depth and that there are no curled roots prior to starting to fill the rest of the space with soil. Use only soil from the planting site to fill in the hole. Putting compost, potting soil, fertilizer amendments, or other similar materials often creates an artificial pot that the tree roots will try to remain within, creating an unstable tree. Carefully refill the hole and once you're done, run water in the area and then slowly & carefully rock the tree back and forth in the soil soup to try to remove any air bubbles that may have formed while you filled the hole. Air pockets are bad news for the roots, so this step is more important than you may think.

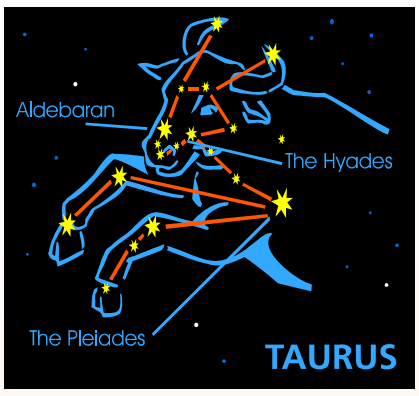
Step #5: Stake the tree. Using broad materials and 2-3 stakes, support the tree loosely for the first year of growth (as shown below). Make sure to remove the supports after the first year, as they will cause bark damage and the root system to not develop properly if left on too long.



Step #6: Mulch and maintain. Use about 3-4 inches of an organic mulch such as wood or bark chips, but keep it away from the trunk of the tree. What does that mean? After adding mulch, go around the trunk of the tree and scoop away the mulch so that it isn't touching the base of the tree. This is very important, as the area needs good air circulation. How wide should you go? As wide as possible is the best answer, but at least to the drip line on newly transplanted trees. Mulch helps maintain soil moisture and lower soil temperature, and keeps lawnmowers and weed whackers away from the trees. Banging into the tree will create wounds, causing disease organisms to easily move in. Continue to water the tree as needed until the soil freezes. This is true no matter what time of the year you planted. Tree wrap should only be placed on trees during the winter to assist in preventing sun scald of young thin-barked trees and mammal damage. If you do use wraps, make sure to remove them in very early spring. Another option is to place wire screening around the tree, staked into place. The mesh will allow good air flow, but still keep out rabbits, deer, etc. Note: You should not fertilize trees in fall, and when/if you do fertilize your young trees, make sure to fertilize from the drip line and out, not right around the trunk.

If you have questions about any horticultural issues, contact Scott or Linda at the Marinette County UW-Extension office at 715-732-7510 or 877-884-4408. You can also send digital photos of the problem to Scott at *sreuss@marinettecounty.com.*

Astronomy at the Arboretum in November!



Have you ever wanted to know more about the night sky? Anne Bartels of Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Division will give a stargazing tour of the fall night sky and share general astronomy information from 6:00-7:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 10, at the Harmony Arboretum. It's located 7 miles west of Marinette, ½ mile south of State Highway 64 on County Road E. *This is a free public program*.

Learn about constellations, look for satellites and meteors, make a star chart, and enjoy an evening under the stars! Some viewing equipment will be available but please feel free to bring your own. Dress for the weather, and hot beverages will be provided. If inclement weather, the event will be cancelled. For more information, email *abartels@marinettecounty.com* or call 715-732-7784.

Harmony Arboretum & Demonstration Gardens is a 460-acre county farm that has been developed into a conservation and horticulture education and demonstration area. The arboretum holds a majestic hardwood forest, winding walking trails, a restored prairie, and demonstration vegetable and flower gardens complete with a windmill for water. It is always open to the public free of charge.

Northwoods Journal
Volume 9, Issue 4

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

Published in cooperation by:
- Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Division
- Marinette County Parks & Outdoor Recreation Department
- University of Wisconsin-Extension

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

Please send comments to:
Marinette County Land & Water Conservation
1926 Hall Ave, Marinette, WI 54143
(715) 732-7780
abartels@marinettecounty.com

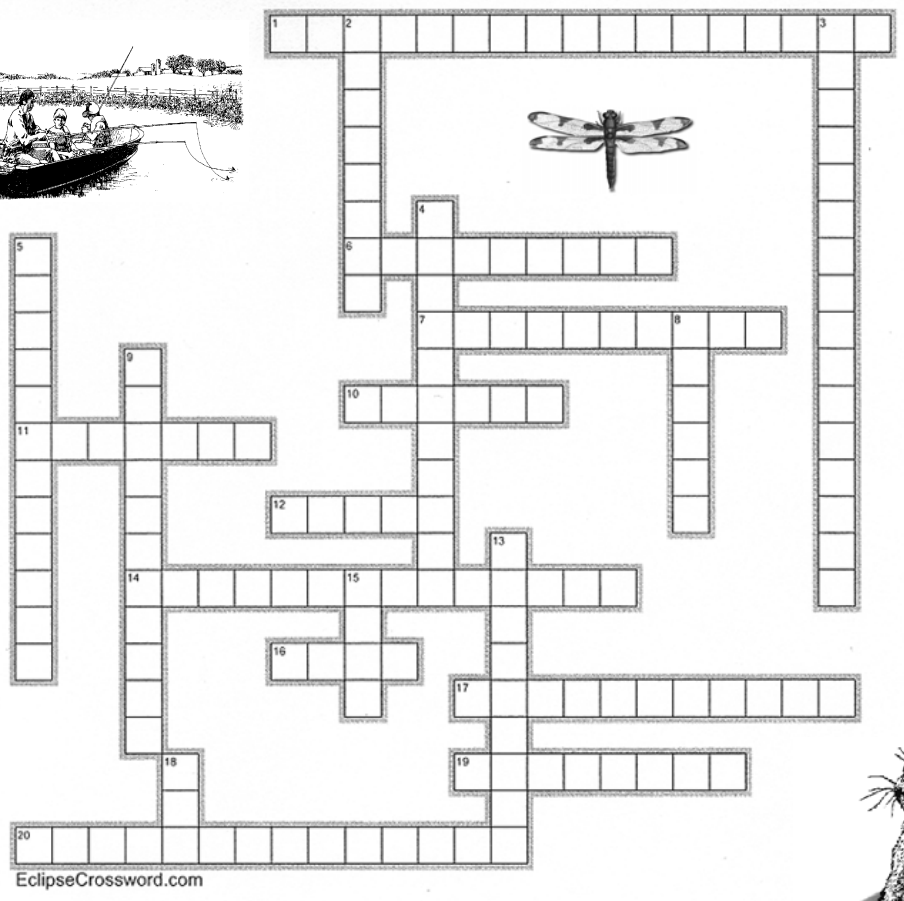
Fall Plant Sale

At Harmony Arboretum & Demonstration Gardens

The Northern Lights Master Gardeners Association annual Fall Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, September 17 from 9 a.m. to noon. It is held at Harmony Demonstration Gardens, 7 miles west of Marinette on Hwy 64, then ½ mile south on County E. Members bring plants they are dividing in their garden, so the selection is always wide and unusual.

The Plant Sale is one of the fundraising events by Northern Lights MGA. The money raised is put towards educational programming and maintenance of the gardens at Harmony. See page 8 for upcoming events. For more information, contact Linda Warren, UWEX Horticulture Assistant, at 715-732-7510 or toll free at 877-884-4408.

Find the answers in the NWJ!



Across

1. A disease that affects bats' hibernation ability
6. The area where roots of trees naturally curve away from the trunk
7. A highly invasive plant that can take over wetland habitat
10. Microscopic algae with a hard 'shell' of calcium that are a part of aquatic food chains
11. Food, water, shelter, & space
12. Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust
14. The name for a group of animals who spend the winter underwater before emerging in spring to change into flying adults
16. National Association of Conservation Districts
17. The wintering site for a group of bats
19. Caterpillar food plant
20. Types of this algae sometimes have a slimy coating to prevent getting eaten by other creatures in the food chain

Down

2. These teeth stop growing during a woodchuck's winter hibernation
3. An insect species that migrates south for the winter to conifer forests in Mexico
4. Tiny insect-like inhabitants of lakes & streams
5. The number of acres the Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust has helped to protect
8. The kind of deep hibernation that woodchucks, bats, and some species of ground squirrels rely on to survive winter
9. One of the criteria for judging in the Conservation Poster Contest
13. A chemical used to destroy unwanted plants
15. Clean boats, clean waters
18. Children's Learning Garden

Marinette & Oconto Counties'

CLEAN SWEEP

September 30th & October 1st
8am to 1pm

Household & Agricultural Hazardous Waste Collection

Locations: Marinette City Garage; Niagara City Fire Department; & Marinette County Highway Shop in Crivitz. In Oconto County: the Highway Shop in Suring; the Recycling Center in Oconto; and the Town of Morgan Hall (Recycling Center).

This program is for the collection of waste generated within the geographical boundaries of Marinette & Oconto Counties. Many products you use in your home and yard contain hazardous materials. Improper disposal of these products can cause fires, injuries to people and animals and groundwater contamination. Examples of hazardous materials include:

- Paint, varnish & solvents
- Herbicides/pesticides/fungicides
- Fertilizers & weed control products
- Household cleaning & laundry products
- Automotive liquids like brake cleaners and lubricants, antifreeze, & gasoline/fuels
- Batteries – alkaline, rechargeable, or auto/motorcycle/ATV
- Fluorescent light bulbs
- Pharmaceuticals
- Swimming pool chemicals
- Aerosol spray cans (empty or full)

Materials not to be accepted include: ammunition/explosives, infectious or medical wastes, asbestos, radioactive wastes, oil, and latex paints. Automotive oil should be taken to a facility that collects and recycles it.

Tips for smart buying and disposal

- Think twice before you buy – switch to safe substitutes.
- Read the label. Make sure the product will do what you want it to do, and follow directions for safe usage, storage & disposal.
- Purchase only the amount you need & use up what you buy.
- Avoid aerosols – choose pump sprays or other alternatives.
- Stores that sell car batteries must accept them back for recycling.
- Give leftovers to someone who will use them for their intended purpose. Reuse products such as paint and paint thinner.
- Never pour oil, antifreeze, or other hazardous materials on the ground, into storm sewers, or down the drain.

Thanks to WI DATCAP and Mar-Oco Landfill for funding this program.

More information at *www.marinettecounty.com*

Area Events Calendar

Thru 9/3 & 9/4 **Area historical museums open** in Marinette, Crivitz, Menominee. Call M&M Chamber of Commerce for more information at 715-735-6681.

Thru Sat. 10/1 **Outdoor Flea Market.** Held at the M & M Plaza, Menominee, the second Saturday of every month from May through September, plus Saturday, October 1st. Sales run 7am-2pm, all spaces are free, first come, vendors set up in area by T – straight across from ACE. Questions call Holly at 906-863-4808 or *hbayerl@hotmail.com*.

Thru Oct. 8 **Peshtigo Fire Museum open.** Museum located on Oconto Avenue in Peshtigo. Open daily 10am-4pm for both the museum and the adjacent Peshtigo Fire Cemetery. Call 715-582-3244 for more information.

Thru October **Area Farmers' Markets** – see page 5 for more information or call the M&M Chamber of Commerce for more information at 715-735-6681.

September 3 **3rd Annual Car/Motorcycle Show.** Moose Lodge, N5233 E Nettleton Lane, Marinette (off Hwy 180). Registration 8-10am, cost $5 per entry. Trophies awarded at 2pm. Refreshments served all day on the Moose Lodge grounds. Children's activities from 10am-12pm**.**

September 4 **West Shore Fishing Museum Ice Cream Social.** Family fun at the annual picnic and raffle, visit the new gift shop and welcome center, enjoy brats, pie and ice cream, root beer floats and other treats with live music by the Sunroom String Band. All the museum buildings and boats are open for viewing. Donations of fruit pies are appreciated, Noon-4pm at Bailey Park on M-35.

September 6 **Tri-County Dog Training Academy fall classes begin.** Dog obedience classes are for dogs eight weeks and older at Marinette Armory, 2000 Mary Street, Marinette. First program begins at 7pm, (do not bring dogs). Classes are puppy, beginners I and beginners II. Check out web site at *www.tcdta.org* or call 715-735-8232

September 9 **Building Dreams Fundraiser.** Sponsored by River Cities Habitat for Humanity at Riverside Golf Club in Menominee, silent & live auction fundraiser with raffles and cash prizes. Dining & silent auction begin 5:30pm, live auction begins 7pm. Tickets $20 per person (includes heavy hors d'oeuvres, beer and soda).

September 10 **Leap of Faith 5K run/walk.** Sponsored by Menominee Catholic Central School, 1406 10th Avenue, Menominee, registration 7:45-8:45am, race 9am (3.1 mile). Fee $17 per person or $40 per family by Aug. 24 or $20 per person or $45 per family after Aug. 24. Questions call Dan Paul at 906-863-3190, 906-428-4457 or *dpaul@catholiccentral.us* or *danpaul70@gmail.com*.

September 10 **6th Annual Fall Car Show.** Parking lot of St. Thomas Aquinas Academy (Marinette Catholic Central High School) from 10am-4pm. Registration from 8-11am, prize drawing 1-3pm & dash plaques for the first 30 cars, sponsored by the Wisconsin and Michigan Model Railroad Club of Marinette and Menominee. For more information or pre-registration call Charles 715-732-2122 or Jay 906-792- 5112/email: *noisemaker383@yahoo.com*.

Sept.10-11 **25th Annual Train Show.** Annual model railroad show and swap meet Sept.10/10am-4pm and Sept.11/10am-2pm at Marinette Catholic Central High School, 1200 Main Street in Marinette. For more information contact Jay 906-792- 5112/email: *noisemaker383@yahoo.com*.

September 17 **Doug Jones Memorial 'Frostbite' Sailboat Race**. At M&M Yacht Club in Menominee, registration starts 10:30am, $25 members/$30 non-members. Contact Ed at 715-587-8388 or email *edjrowe@yahoo.com* for more information.

September 23 **JW Wells State Park Spooktacular.** Park located on M-35 north of Menominee. Enjoy pumpkin carving, a Halloween parade and Trick or Treating in the park. Questions call 906-863-9484.

September 24 **Gun & Knife Show.** Crivitz Village Hall, Downtown Crivitz. Buy-Sell-Trade, doors open to public 8am-2pm. Admission is $3, children under 12, $1 & sponsored by Netzel-Zenz Post 413, Crivitz.

September 24 **Peshtigo Historical Day at Badger Park.** Firetower walk/run at 8am, registration from 6:30-7:45am. Parade at 10:30am, all main events at Badger Park – no admission charge. Peshtigo Foundation bed races, horseshoe tournament, Timberjacks football game at 3pm, live music 11:30am-9:30pm, craft booths, food, balloon jumping equipment and games all day. More information call Peshtigo Chamber of Commerce at 715-582-0327 or for crafts call Debra at 715-582-4860.

September 24 **Fall Color Hike & Geocache Hunt.** Governor Thompson State Park from 12-4pm. Explore & enjoy the fall colors or bring your GPS and see if you can find our special event caches. Refreshments provided by Friends of Governor Thompson State Park. Vehicle admission required. Contact Maggie at 715-757-3979 for more information.

October 1 **Wausaukee Fall Festival.** 9am-2pm, Hwy 141 (Main Street). Crafters, vendors, bake sales, food, refreshments, live music, beer garden, farmer's market, business specials, face painting, kid's games and American Legion bingo at 11am. For information to participate call Annette at 715-927-4361 or Sharon at 715-927-0049.

For more fall/winter events, call the M&M Chamber of Commerce at 715-735-6681.

Harmony Arboretum Upcoming Fall Events

September 8, Tomato Tasting & Preservation, starts at 6:00 pm – This event will showcase the variation within the tomato world. Over 300 tomato cultivars (donated by Totally Toma-toes) will be grown at Harmony during 2011. We'll also have presentations and information on proper harvest, storage, and safely preserving your own tomato harvest.

September 17, Fall Plant Sale, 9am-noon – Plants grown by Northern Lights Master Gardeners will be for sale at the Harmony Demonstration Gardens. This is the perfect time for planting perennials. See page 7 for more.

November 10, Astronomy Night at the Arboretum, 6-7:30 pm – Spend an evening under the stars! Learn about stars, constellations, mythology, and more. See page 6 for more information.

The Harmony Arboretum & Demonstration Gardens is located seven miles west of Marinette off of Highway 64, then ½ mile south on County E. **All programs are free unless otherwise stated.** For more information, call UWEX at 715-732-7510 or LWCD at 715-732-7780.

Holy beets, Batman! Kids can plant their own veggies at the CLG. Thanks to Becky & Aaron for posting this on Facebook under 'Northern Lights Master Gardeners'

Update - Children's Learning Garden at Harmony Arboretum

The Open House at the Harmony Arboretum was held on Sunday, August 21 and what a beautiful day we had! Visitors watched the unveiling of the underground tunnel mural, explored the elements of the Children's Learning Garden, toured the Demonstration Gardens, asked questions of Master Gardeners, and taste-tested a variety of tomatoes.

We will be continuing work on the Children's Learning Garden this fall and by the end of next summer the CLG should be complete. If you are interested in donating time or funding to this project, or are just curious about it, please call Linda Warren, UWEX Horticulture Assistant, at 715-732-7510 or toll free at 877-884-4408. Below and at right are some photos from the day's events. Below at left: visitors admire the woodland scene mural while children have story time; at right, visitors try out the completed sundial.

Visitors search for items in the wetland for a scavenger hunt

The CLG's play turtle structure – what a lovely bonnet!