

Northwoods Journal - September 2012

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

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Battling Eurasian Water Milfoil in Marinette County

By Jake Budish, Land Information Department Intern

History & Identification of EWM

Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) is an aggressive invasive species native to Europe, Asia, and North Africa. The introduction of Eurasian watermilfoil was thought to be around the early 1900's from the aquarium and shipping trade. Eurasian watermilfoil is able to form extremely dense mats near the surface (below) that depletes water of oxygen, entangles boat propellers, blocks docks, chokes fishing spots, impedes waterfowl hunting, and interferes with swimming areas.



Today the main means of introduction of Eurasian watermilfoil is spread by the fragmentation of the plant and carried to new bodies of water via boats, trailers and live well water.

There are **seven native milfoil species** within the waters of Wisconsin. One of the most common is Northern watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum sibiricum*) which is also widespread throughout North America. Northern watermilfoil (below) is a submerged aquatic plant and has finely dissected, feather-like leaves that form a Christmas tree shape arranged in whorls of 4 to 6 with 7 to 10 leaflet pairs per leaf and each leaf around 40mm long. The stem can measure up to 3 m long and is often whitish or whitish green in color.



History of Eurasian Watermilfoil in Beecher & Upper Lakes, Little Newton & Thunder Lakes

Beecher and Upper Lakes are located in the Township of Beecher in Marinette County, Wisconsin. The lakes consist of two separate basins connected by a short channel. Upper Lake covers an area of 22 acres with a maximum depth of 18 feet. Beecher Lake covers an area of 37 acres with a maximum depth of 47 feet and both lakes feature moderately stained water. The dam at the outlet of Beecher Lake keeps water levels in both lakes at adequate levels and the water from the dam drains into the Pike River, which is an Outstanding Resource Water and a State designated Wild River.



Eurasian watermilfoil was found in Beecher Lake in June 2007 and was officially verified by the Freckman herbarium at UW-Stevens Point. Due to the stained water in the lakes, the rooting depth for most of the plant species is usually restricted to around 10 feet. After initial documentation and four years of extensive management, the native plant populations have rebounded dramatically.

In 2010, an aquatic plant survey identified 31 native plants species leading to a floristic quality index (FQI) of 38.1, with the statewide average of 22.2. Floristic quality index is a standardized tool used for natural area assess-

Continued next page

Peshtigo River Trail Paddle

Saturday, September 15th
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

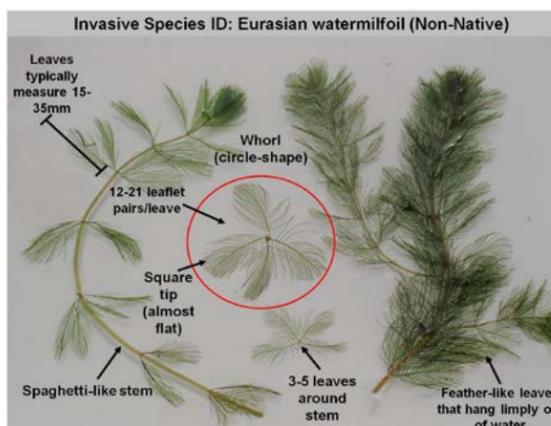


Enjoy a leisurely paddle down the Lower Peshtigo River from the City of Peshtigo boat landing to the County Rd. BB boat landing. LWCD staff will guide the group along the river. Bring your own canoe/kayak or reserve a canoe or kayak (limited supply - *reservations starting August 29 at 9am*). There is a reservation fee of \$20 per canoe, refundable on the day of the event when you show up. Kayaks are being provided by Bill St. Martin of the Cycle Path in Menominee; non-refundable fee of \$15/single (6), \$20 tandem (1). **Please call to register for the program**, even if you are bringing your own equipment.

Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Bring your own snacks, water, etc. We will take a lunch break halfway along the river route; and a shuttle will be available to transport participants back to their vehicles at the put-in point. To register, reserve a canoe/kayak, or for more information about the event, please call the Land & Water Conservation office at 715-732-7780.



Eurasian watermilfoil (below) is a perennial, submersed aquatic herb rooted in water usually around 2-15 feet, depending on water quality. The plants have slender stems that measure up to 3 meters long and sport a reddish or olive-green surface mat in summer. The leaves, which measure around 15-35mm, are in whorls (circles) of 3-5 around a spaghetti-like stem. Typically the leaves are often square at the tip and 12 to 21 pairs of leaflets per leaf that hang limply in the water.



EWM, continued from page 1

ment, including site assessment of wetland and water floristic quality and for long-term site monitoring.

Little Newton Lake, located in the Town of Stephenson in Marinette County, covers an area of 59 acres with a maximum depth of 53 feet. Water clarity is very clear. The lake is a very popular swimming lake with a public beach and a lot of recreational watercraft traffic.

Eurasian watermilfoil was first found in Little Newton Lake in the fall of 2007 and was verified by the Freckman herbarium at UW-Stevens Point. The lake has a maximum rooting depth of 20 feet for the plant species, due to the exceptional water clarity. The aquatic plant survey conducted in 2009 indicated 10 native plant species and the FQI of 20.2, which is slightly lower than that of the state average of 22.2. Thanks to the Wisconsin DNR Aquatic Invasive Rapid Response Grant, the spread of the Eurasian watermilfoil has been restricted and currently has patchy, isolated patches within the lake.

Thunder Lake is located in the Town of Stephenson in Marinette County, Wisconsin. The lake covers 133 acres with a maximum depth of 62 feet and the water clarity is even clearer than that of Little Newton Lake. The lake is a very deep lake with over 60% of the lake in excess of 20 feet and is a local favorite for fishing.

Eurasian watermilfoil was first noticed in Thunder Lake in 1992, and was also verified by the Freckman herbarium at UW-Stevens Point. The extraordinary unstained water allows plants to have a maximum rooting depth of 22 feet. The lake boasts a fairly diverse native plant community and in 2010 the aquatic plant survey showed Thunder Lake to have a FQI of 22.5, which is slightly higher than that of the state average of 22.2.

All the lakes mentioned above have public access and boat landings. If interested in lake recreation, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has interactive maps on their website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/lakepages>. Just enter "Marinette County" in the search text box and enjoy!

What's new with the Hydraulic Harvester?

The July 2012 issue of the *Northwoods Journal* mentioned how the Marinette County Land and Water Conservation Department recently received a *Wisconsin Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant* to construct a hydraulic harvester. This harvester (below) is built on a massive 24-foot pontoon customized with a pump system, separating tank, and filtration system designed to suck up Eurasian watermilfoil by the roots and significantly reducing the number of plant fragments with the lakes. The 3 main lakes the harvester will first be used on will be Little Newton, Thunder, and Beecher/Upper Lakes.



Currently the construction is still underway and hopefully will be deployed out on Little Newton Lake sometime in late August or early September. The other lakes mentioned will possibly get their chance this fall or next summer. Stay tuned for future updates! Call Chuck Druckrey, Water Resources Specialist, at 715-732-7528 for more information or email cdruckrey@marinettecounty.com.

2012 Environmental Awareness Poster Contest

By Aleta DiRienzo, Database Specialist/Program Assistant



Every fall, the Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Department sponsors the Environmental Poster Contest for school aged children in Wisconsin in conjunction with the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association. The next contest will be held this fall, just as school starts in September 2012. This contest is on the advisory list of the Association of Wisconsin Administrators. Cash prizes are awarded to the first four places in each division. All participants receive an official certificate for participating in the contest.

The 2012 Environmental Awareness Poster Contest theme "Soil to Spoon!" is based on the 2012 National Association of Conservation Districts stewardship theme. "Soil to Spoon" shows how important it is to understand where the food comes from that you eat each day. You see a wide variety of products in your local grocery store, but where does it all come from? What is the connection to the soil you walk on each day?



Volunteer Center of Marinette County Visits Harmony Arboretum

On Saturday, July 21st, a group of people from the newly-formed **Volunteer Center of Marinette County** went out to Harmony Demonstration Gardens to help the Master Gardener volunteers with on-going projects. It was a very hot day, but the large group of volunteers moved soil, weeded, planted, and helped with the new greenhouse. UW-Extension horticulture assistant, Linda Warren, gave a general tour of the gardens before the work was started.



Master Gardener Barbara Anderson helps children paint mushrooms for the Harmony fairy garden.

The Volunteer Center is located at 1812 Hall Avenue, Marinette, in Dunlap Square. For more information about the Center, call (715) 587-3351, or email them:

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.



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. First place winners of the county contest will be entered in the Lake Michigan Area Land & Water Conservation (LMLWCA) Contest (area) in October 2012. First place winners in the area contest will proceed to the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) contest (state) in November 2012. The first place winners of the state contest will be entered into the National Association of Conservation Districts National Contest in February 2013.

Entry blanks and information will be mailed to all Marinette County 4-H Clubs, Elementary School Teachers and the Art and Science Teachers of High Schools in Marinette County at the end of August. Check with your teachers for an entry blank. If you can't find one - you can either find an entry blank on-line at www.marinettecounty.com - (go into departments • Land Information • Environmental Education • Environmental Poster Contest.) Or you can call 715-732-7780 or email adirienzo@marinettecounty.com to request one.



volunteercenter.marinette@gmail.com. You can also visit on Facebook - "Volunteer Center of Marinette County". For general information on volunteering in Wisconsin, visit www.volunteerwisconsin.org.



Getting the old caulk off the recycled uprights to the greenhouse behind the pavilion.



'Deadheading' Shasta daisies to encourage blooming.



Area Farmers' & Flea Markets



Marinette Main Street Farmers Market.

Through October 30, 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 715-732-5139.

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.

Menominee Farmers Market. The Farmers' Market is located on the corner of 1st Street and 8th Avenue across from the Bandshell. Menominee, MI. June through October 6. Saturday market from 9am-1pm, and Thursday market from 3-7pm. For more information, contact Lucy Pier at dpier@new.rr.com or visit <http://www.culinate.com/market/MenomineeHistoryFM>.

Crivitz Farmers Market - Outdoors at the Evergreen Market in downtown Crivitz at 412 S. Hwy 141. Offering locally grown fruits and vegetables, honey, maple syrup, handmade soaps and personal care items, fresh-baked breads and baked goods, etc. For more information call 715-854-3837.

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 Barbara at 715-854-2030.

Wausaukee Area Farmers Market & More First Saturday each month, from 9am-2pm, 1 block from east main street across from Payant Park. Crafts and farm products for sale, vendors wishing to set up booths call 715-856-5341.

Oconto Farmers' Market

The Farmers' Market is the first and third Thursday of each month from 7/2 until 10/8, from 11:30am-4:30 pm at the Oconto County Courthouse. For more information, call Hope Kersten at 902-834-7072.



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, LWCD Information & Education Specialist: abartels@marinettecounty.com or call 715-732-7784 for more information.

LWCD's First Annual "My Story" Contest Winners



This year, the LWCD held a writing contest for Marinette County youth in grades 6 through high school. The goal of this contest was to get youth involved in writing about experiences they'd had in the outdoors, on family outings, nature, or other related topics. We chose two winners, one for each age category – grades 6-9 and 10-12. The winners received 4 passes each to the Marinette County fair held in August.

Kaila Backhaus from Amberg is the grade 6-9 winner - here is her story:

My Camping Trip in Marinette County

I camped in Morgan Park in Pembine, WI. It was summertime and I stayed there for 5 days. The first thing I wanted to do when I got there was to swim in the glistening lake. When I went into the beautiful lake, it was refreshing from the humid, hot air. When I swam that day, I heard and saw a gorgeous loon. The loon's call was a distinctive sound. The loon had colors of dark navy blue, white spots, and a black beak. When it was nighttime, I heard crickets and frogs sing. Their music was like a symphony.



The next day there were cute little chipmunks outside our camper. So we fed them cheeseballs and some kind of white nut. The chipmunks would go on the plants that held the nuts, and then they would take the nut off the plant and stuff the nuts in their mouth. Their huge cheeks held lots of nuts.

I swam that day, too, and I found this huge snail in the deep end of the water. I named him George. We kept that slimy snail until we left. Also I tried to catch very fast minnows that were by me. They were kind of spotted with black spots. They actually looked scary. That night I heard a soothing whippoorwill through my screen window. Hearing the beautiful sound of the whippoorwill, just relaxed me to sleep. The sound was like a lullaby.



Megan Larmour from Coleman High School is the winner in the grades 10-12 category. This is her story:

Kayaking

The heat was sticky on my skin as the sun beat down in powerful rays. My six family members and I had been on the shaded river all day. With calm, fast moving water under our kayaks we all cruised down the river, bags loaded to the skies on each person's boat all ready for the camping expedition.

We all furiously paddled down the river searching for the perfect spot to camp. I happened to be ahead of everyone else when I heard the sound of fast moving water. When I looked ahead I saw furious looking rapids. They sloshed gallons of water from left to right, back and forth and pushed it angrily across over the tops of rocks and logs. My heart was pounding against my chest like a spooked bird trying to break out of a locked cage. I tried to back paddle and keep myself in one spot, but the water was like a jail warden pulling me to my cell.

As I jabbed and battled the water, I heard my step-dad come behind me roaring instructions, "Megan! Find the calmer side of the rapids and

go there!" I scoped the rapids and spotted that the left side was somewhat calmer. I yelled back to everyone, "Guys, stay on the left, it's calmer there!" I aggressively thrust left as I started to force my way to the calmer water. The rapids were like an angry child, throwing a childish tantrum. The water pushed and pulled me while pinning me against rocks and logs. It was as if the water was trying to pull me under, trying its hardest to take me far down under with it.



Slowly recovering from the great rapids I took the back of my hand to my face and wiped the sticky, salty sweat from my face. I decided then to take a break after that major battle as I kicked my feet out and rested them on my kayak. I was completely exhausted after all the work and shock that I was in to just get over the rapids. I laid there on my kayak basking in the sun, eyes closed, legs out, and the paddle resting in its holder, when all of a sudden it started to rain. It was probably the most painful yet shortest rain shower I have ever witnessed. The rain bolted down on all of us, awakening my sisters and me from our tanning positions.

The rain sped down from the sky to mix in with the water as all the people on the river scurried to the banks just so they could perch slightly under a dry tree. The rain then stopped. It almost seemed to be magical that it rained. Because when the cruel hard pellets of water disappeared there, across the water, was our perfect camping spot.

My kayaking trip was one of the greatest times in my life. I am thankful for my family and for wonderful moments like this one.



CONGRATULATIONS to Kaila & Megan – they both received 4 daily passes each to the Marinette County Fair, held in August in Wausaukee. We hope to continue this writing contest in next year's *Northwoods Journal*, so keep an eye out in the June 2013 issue for more information!

Northwoods Journal

Volume 10, 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.

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- Marinette Co. Land & Water Conservation
- Marinette Co. Parks & Outdoor Recreation
- Marinette Co. UW-Extension

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



Phragmites Control Update - Follow up Shoreline Phragmites Treatment Scheduled to Begin in Early September

By Robert Ruleau, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator

Last year over 3,000 acres of non-native, invasive Phragmites grass was treated along the shoreline in six northeast Wisconsin counties. This year, crews are gearing up for another round of treatments in an effort to remove this highly invasive plant. In 2010, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources received a grant of \$805,600 from the Environmental Protection Agency *Great Lakes Restoration Initiative* to remove Phragmites and restore coastal wetland habitat.



Large scale treatments along the shoreline began in 2011. Because most of the thick, tall stands had never been treated prior to last year, most of the initial control work along the western shores of Green Bay had to be done by using a helicopter equipped with a boom sprayer. The herbicide used (*Imazapyr*, brand name Arsenal®) is absorbed by the plant and effectively travels to the roots, where it does its damage. The 2011 treatments were carried out after Labor Day because the most effective time to treat Phragmites is early fall before the first frost or freeze. This timing is important for herbicide effectiveness, when the plants are taking nutrients, along with the herbicide down to their roots.

For many years, Phragmites growth along the Green Bay West shores had spread unchecked on exposed lakebed caused by historic low water levels. Dense, mono-typic stands blocked landowners' views and access to the water. The impenetrable stands are also poor habitat, choking out native plants and animals.



The scene along the shoreline of Marinette County looks dramatically different this year. Of the approximately 735 acres that were aerial treated, little to no new Phragmites growth has occurred in those areas. Dead, brownish/tan stems were all that remained along most of the shoreline during this year's growing season.

Because the grant project funds only herbicide treatment, cutting the dead stems post treatment was recommended last year and many landowners hired private contractors to remove the dead vegetation. Removing treated plants gives landowners access and views to the bay again while also promoting beneficial native wetland plant growth that will help keep Phragmites from re-establishing. There is a healthy native seed bank in the sediment/exposed lakebed from decades of water level fluctuation. The best time to hire ground crews to remove dead Phragmites stems is early winter when the ground is starting to freeze and there is little snow to slow down heavy cutting equipment.



There were a few challenges that came along with the aerial treatments, particularly how close the helicopter could get to the embankment rip rap area where high water used to be. This ordinary high water mark separates the exposed lakebed from upland, tree lined and grassy areas. To prevent killing large trees in the backyards of private properties along the shoreline, the helicopter stayed about 30 feet away from these areas while spraying. So although most of the Phragmites were treated and killed, there are areas along the shoreline that did not get treated and new growth is occurring. This year, the plan is to target those areas that the aerial treatments missed.

Follow-up treatments in 2012

Most of the follow-up control work will likely commence after Labor Day. To be able to get a more precise treatment near tree-lined embankments, crews will be contracted out to do ground treatments. There will be minimal aerial treatment because much of the larger swaths of Phragmites stands were killed last year. The equipment that will likely be seen working on the

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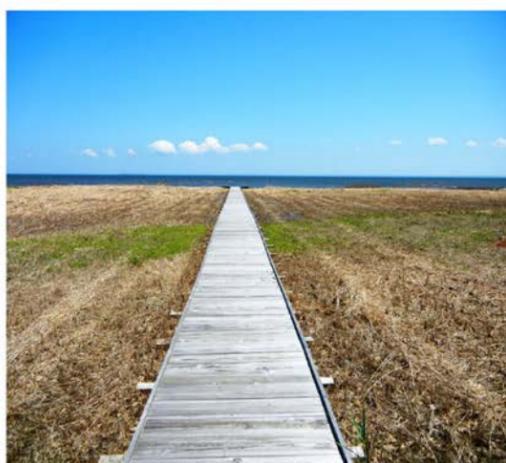
SHORELINE PHRAGMITES CONTROL

Michaelis Park - Marinette County

Pre Treatment (July 2011)



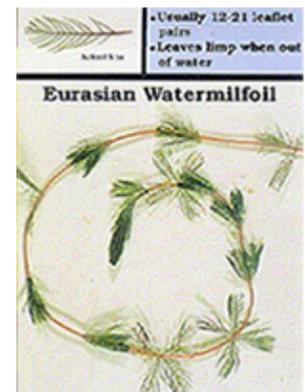
Post Treatment and Cut (July 2012)



CBCW Watercraft Inspection Program a Success



The 2012 Marinette County Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) watercraft inspection program has been hugely successful this boating season. Three watercraft inspectors were stationed at various landings throughout the summer educating boaters and water users about the importance of preventing the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). The watercraft inspectors have been working at busy boat landings on waters that contain invasive plants and animals like Eurasian Water-milfoil (pictured below) and Zebra Mussels. It is safe to say that boaters in Marinette County are more educated and aware of AIS issues because of these efforts.



Key Waters Staffed

- ✓ Lake Noquebay
- ✓ High and Caldron Falls
- ✓ Sandstone Flowage
- ✓ Thunder Lake
- ✓ Newton Lakes
- ✓ Menominee and Peshtigo Rivers

Watercraft Inspection Efforts

- ✓ 879 Boats Inspected
- ✓ 1,758 People Contacted
(Data entered as of July 20th)

Boaters can help prevent AIS by following these simple steps below:

- **INSPECT** boats, trailers, and equipment
- **REMOVE** all attached aquatic plants and animals
- **DRAIN** all water from boats, vehicles, and equipment



For more information about AIS in Marinette County, please contact Robert Ruleau, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, at 715-732-7642 or email him at rruleau@marinettecounty.com.



Phragmites, continued from page 4

exposed lakebed are small track vehicles with boom sprayers, along with crews with backpack sprayers to target isolated new growth areas.



Marinette County Land and Water Conservation Division will notify landowners along the shoreline when the expected treatment dates will begin this year. There will also be updated Phragmites project information and maps on the Marinette County homepage. <http://www.marinettecounty.com/>. Landowner education and vigilance will be important components to successful long-term Phragmites removal project. The Land and Water Conservation Division will provide presentations and field days to show what Phragmites looks like when it first starts growing in the spring and what they can do to remove it. Landowners will also learn how to tell the difference between beneficial native plants, and harmful non-native, invasive plants.

Phragmites impacts are not just limited to this project area. A very similar situation exists along the shoreline North of Marinette, from Menominee all the way up to Escanaba, Michigan. Conservation organizations and landowners have partnered in Michigan and have successfully received grant funding to take part in a similar Phragmites removal project along this stretch. Treatments for that project are anticipated to begin next year and will greatly enhance our effort stay on top of this ongoing battle.

Marinette County Phragmites Project Highlights from 2011

- ✓ 15 miles of Shoreline Treated
- ✓ 735 Acres of Aerial Treatment
- ✓ 30 Acres of Ground Treatment
- ✓ 318 Private Properties Involved

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

Useful Websites on Phragmites and the WDNR/GLRI Project:

- <http://glri.us/>
- http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/GreatLakes/documents/PhragmitesRemovalProject_FAQs.pdf
- <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/greatlakes/Phragmites2007.pdf>
- <http://www.wisconsinwetlands.org/phragmites.htm>



Landscaping for Wildlife: Part 4 – Mammals

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



This is the finale of a four part series in this year's *Northwoods Journal* regarding landscaping for wildlife. Birds were the focus of the June article; Insects in July; and Herptiles in August. I'll also delve into a few of the issues when invasive species take over a natural or contrived landscape.

Attracting mammals actually takes the most work of any of the types of animals you may want to attract, with a few very notable exceptions. 98% of the calls and discussions I have regarding mammals and landscapes are how to avoid them or deter them from visiting the landscape, with very few on how to attract them. There are a number of species that can become very problematic in your landscape. In our area, the most notorious species include deer, cottontail rabbits, skunks, black bear, raccoons, groundhogs, and opossums.



Thus, the first question you need to ask yourself is what you really want to accomplish if you are trying to improve mammal habitat. If you want see a specific species for viewing or photography, then the key is to provide high-quality, preferred food items at a time of the year when the animals are most likely to be looking for additional food. An answer that centers more on population assistance requires large-scale habitat management in most cases, and may require cooperation from adjoining landowners.



If attraction for harvest purposes is your goal, then again you really need to be working on a larger scale to provide sufficient water, food, and habitat. We are not going to talk about that type of work here, but there are many resources available through the Land & Water Conservation office, the WDNR, non-profit groups, and University of Wisconsin - Extension if you are looking for such information.

The goal of improving habitat for healthy populations of a wide array of mammals can be worked toward at the homestead landscaping level. However, we are probably expanding the definition of 'landscaping' a bit to include habitat modification in otherwise unimproved areas. As with our previous discussions regarding birds and insects, a key component of a mammal-healthy environment is *plant diversity*. The larger the number of plants you have present, the higher the number of insects you will attract, leading to more seeds, more fruits, more leaves, and more animals (insects, amphibians, birds, etc...) to eat. This will most definitely improve your viewing

and photography potential of mammal species, and will also improve the mammalian species diversity in the area, even if you do not ever see those species.

Do you know what you might attract? There are many mammal species found in our area. They include 6 bat species, 4 tree squirrels, 2 chipmunks, 5 ground squirrels or true gophers, 4 canids (dog-like), the black bear, bobcats, up to 3 deer species (elk and moose are not common, but do wander), no less than 18 other rodents (ranging from small mouse species to the beaver), 9 members of the weasel family, five shrew species, and one marsupial (opossum). Visit the DNR Critter Corner web page at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/eek/critter/index.htm> for information on different types of animals of Wisconsin, and has listings of species found in our state.

The most difficult to try to attract are the predator species, as really the only way to attract them is to attract lots of other animals and hope that they follow along. The easiest to attract are the herbivores, particularly cottontail rabbits and deer - all you need are healthy landscape plants that you don't fence or spray with some type of repellent! Creating safe hiding areas for smaller rodents is key to maintaining consistent populations. Areas such as brush piles (pictured below), different cover types (shrubs, trees, dead trees, etc...), and areas that are not otherwise mown or managed will provide such critical cover for small mammals as well as many other species.



Larger species will also be attracted to water sources. Providing a year-round source of drinking water is guaranteed to give you viewing opportunities that others will not experience, as dry, hot, or cold weather will cause larger mammal species to seek out such liquid water sources. Adding noise to your water feature can draw animals from larger distances than still water. A key factor for larger mammals is space and size of appropriate cover. That is something that is very difficult to manage, unless you own larger acreages, or are willing to work with neighbors.

This is just an overview, but if you are looking for specific information, start with the sources already mentioned, do your own web search, or contact Scott or Linda at the Marinette County UW-Extension office, 715-732-7510, or e-mail scott.reuss@ces.uwex.edu.



City of Peshtigo Dredging Project

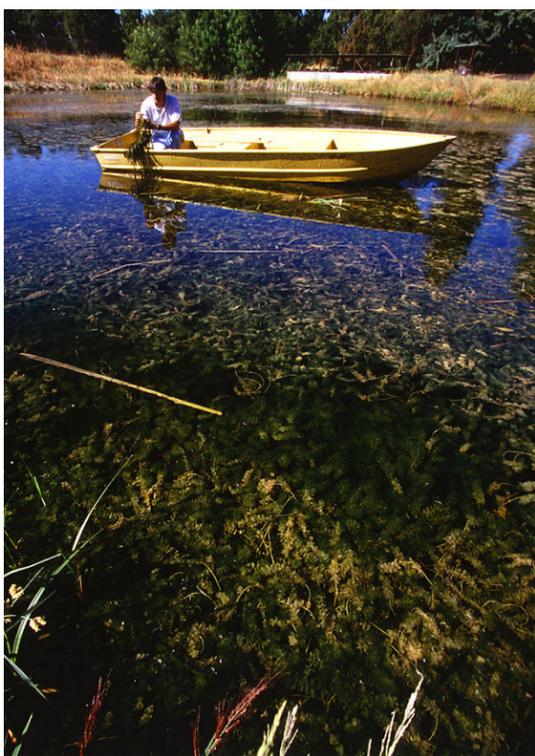
By Greg Cleereman, Marinette County Conservationist



Recent articles in local papers tell the end of the Peshtigo Flowage dredging story. In this article we hope to begin the story and provide context. The dredging is just the most recent, in a long list of partnerships between the City of Peshtigo and Marinette County.

The County Land Information Department - Land and Water Conservation Division (LWCD) started working with agricultural producers in the watersheds that drain into Peshtigo Flowage decades ago. The goals were to reduce nutrients (especially phosphorus) and sediment reaching the flowage. The LWCD helped farmers voluntarily install more than fifty manure storage facilities and implement nutrient management plans on almost 40,000 cropland acres draining to Peshtigo Flowage. This is important because sediment deposition and high phosphorus levels create conditions that aquatic invasive plants love.

Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) is an aquatic invasive species plaguing Peshtigo Flowage for many years. In recent summers, EWM has made boating difficult and swimming at Badger Park much less popular. EWM also traps and holds filamentous algae creating an unsightly, slimy, odorous mess. When these plants die-off, decomposition uses up dissolved oxygen needed by fish and other aquatic life. It might seem counter intuitive, but high temperatures and little rainfall also seems result in better EWM and algae growth.



The City of Peshtigo has been battling EWM since the 1980's, first with aquatic herbicide and in then 1989 with mechanical cutting. In 1993 the LWCD helped the City obtain a Wisconsin Waterways Commission grant that paid half the cost of the weed harvester currently used to harvest aquatic plants within the Peshtigo City Limits.



The Peshtigo Park and Recreation Department has spent an average of 300 hours harvesting aquatic plants each summer. The harvesting effort focused on dense EWM near high use public areas and residential development along the west side of the flowage. Unfortunately, harvesting seldom eliminates plants. Much like lawn mowing, harvesting leaves the root system intact and plants will re-grow (see picture below).



In 2002, the Peshtigo City Council hired the LWCD to develop management plans and recommend management options for the Flowage. The LWCD continues to provide technical support and plan implementation assistance, especially with aquatic plant management, to this day. State law requires entities managing aquatic plants to have a management plan meeting WDNR requirements.

In 2009, the Peshtigo City Council asked the LWCD to apply for a WDNR Aquatic Invasive Species Program Grant to fund development of a plan for management of aquatic plants in Peshtigo Flowage. The grant was awarded in October 2009 and the plan developed in 2011. The LWCD gave the final report to the City Council January 2012.

In December 2009, LWCD staff mapped sediment depths in the mouth of Trout Creek at the request of WDNR Fisheries staff working on behalf of the City of Peshtigo to obtain a federal grant to fund dredging. The impetus behind this effort was the knowledge that Peshtigo Flowage was being drawn down in summer 2010 for dam repairs. "Dry" dredging was chosen over hydraulic dredging because there aren't suitable dewatering spots near the flowage and lower cost. Unfortunately, the application was unsuccessful.

Last winter, Peshtigo Alderperson Cathi Malke wanted to try again and asked the LWCD for help. The USEPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), the same program funding Phragmites control along Shore Drive in Marinette, was available again in 2012. Peshtigo Flowage was going to be drawn down again, this time for building the new Peshtigo River Bridge. Ms. Malke wanted to seek funds to dredge from the Badger Park Beach, the mouth of Trout Creek and



Trout Creek flows between the High School and Elementary School in Peshtigo

A key first step in the application process was to map the sediment so that the sediment volume, and corresponding costs, could be estimated for the GLRI grant application. So in January, LWCD staff was once again out on Peshtigo Flowage ice drilling 119 holes to measure water and sediment depth. LWCD mapping done in 2011 found EWM very scarce at depths greater than seven feet and most commonly in soft organic sediment. These facts make dredging the best control alternative because it can result in water too deep for EWM to grow and removal of the soft organic sediment that best supports EWM.

Ultimately, the GLRI application requesting \$358,000 to remove 100,000 cubic yards of sediment was submitted to USEPA. Dredging requires a WDNR permit. LWCD staff developed the permit application and met with City and WDNR staff regarding the project. Based on the size and type of the project, WDNR required testing in the project area to ensure the sediment was not contaminated. LWCD staff gathered the samples for analysis. From January 5, 2012 to July 22, 2012, the LWCD worked on the dredging project for more than 150 hours.

It was shortly after the sediment was given a clean bill of health that we learned the GLRI grant application was unsuccessful. However, recognizing the once-in-a-generation opportunity to rescue Peshtigo Flowage, the City was not ready to give up. On August 7, 2012 the Peshtigo City Council approved spending \$198,000 to dredge from Badger Park Beach to the mouth of Trout Creek.

However, despite requesting and receiving a delay from Wisconsin Public Service in refilling the flowage, time was running out. Once again, the City asked the LWCD for help. August 10th LWCD staff performed a detailed survey of the project area. Back in the office, the field data was used to create 13 cross-sections showing where and how much sediment needs to be removed to reach water depths greater than six feet.

This information will guide the dredging contractor. Thirty-five to forty thousand cubic yards of material will be removed. The project will end shortly after refilling of the flowage begins on September 14, 2012.



Upper Peshtigo River



A Living Room in the Woods: Six Great Ways Parks Connect Kids to Nature

By Richard J. Dolesh, Vice President for Conservation & Parks, National Recreation & Park Association
Taken from www.childrenandnature.org

A park manager from Five Rivers MetroParks in Dayton, OH, Todd Catchpole, recently told me about finding a secret nature place built by kids in one of their parks. This charming and unexpected construction, literally a little living room in the woods, was located near a stream, out of view, and known only to the neighborhood children who played there till it was accidentally discovered by park staff.

The tableau was constructed from grape vines, stones, and other natural materials gathered from the nearby stream and populated by small dolls and toy furniture and decorated with fresh daffodils. It was a delightful place, full of the imagination of children at play. Far from being an unauthorized use of the park, the 'Living Room in the Woods' was exactly the kind of nature discovery play the park staff had hoped would take place in this recently designated Nature Play Area.



Five Rivers MetroParks has designated a number of Nature Play Areas in their parks, and this one is just about ideal – a wooded finger of parkland that extends into a residential neighborhood which surrounds the parkland on three sides. It is so suitable for children's play that the mother of one of the kids who built the living room recently contacted the park staff and expressed her appreciation that there was such a place in the park that her kids could safely play, and in a way that she felt was so important for their development.

The Living Room in the Woods highlights an important truth—the immense value of parks to kids. Simply said, parks are one of the primary places that kids—and parents—can connect to nature and the outdoors. We take them for granted, but they may just be essential if a generation of kids who have lost their connection to nature are to re-connect.

So, why are parks so important to kids?

- **Parks are safe places for kids to go.** Whether it is reality or just the perception of reality, many parents are fearful of letting their kids play unsupervised outdoors except in very controlled circumstances. Stranger-danger, fear of poisonous plants, fear of stinging and clinging insects—all of these are reasons why nature for some is a place to be feared not embraced. Parks are one of the few places that are very safe for kids to go. They are secure, free from most hazards, and watched over by staff and the public. Park visitors promptly report unsafe conditions or hazards. Many eyes on the park make for a safe place for kids to play.
- **Parks are one of the best places for discovery and play.** Think back on your own childhood. The life of your imagination was a fertile place. Playing king-of-the-hill on a pile of dirt, building a fort or a clubhouse in the woods, flipping rocks over in a stream, exploring in uncharted territory – all were hugely enriching experiences. Natural parks are places for kids to discover the eggs of a frog in the water collected in a tire t-rack and to see squirrels running through the tops of trees, jumping from tree

to tree. Kids will load their pockets with natural objects to later marvel at how interesting the things found in nature really are. Parks are places for kids to discover nature and exercise their imagination.

- **Parks are places for families to connect** – with nature, and to each other. Perhaps more than ever, families need places to connect with each other. Parks are all-purpose places for kids to connect with nature and with families to connect with each other. They are one of the few places that families can go where there are no barriers to communication—no amplified loudspeakers, no big screen TVs, nothing other than the sounds and sights of nature. Parks enable connections between people as well as to nature.
- **Parks are close-to-home nature places.** One of the great blessings of our national birthright is the heritage of our parks and public lands. Acquiring and developing parks is a uniquely American tradition at all levels of government, one that is all the more cherished as open spaces are rapidly disappearing from communities. The power of local parks to connect kids with nature is not to be underestimated. A long-standing observation about parks, recently articulated by Joe Elton, Virginia state park director, is that “you visit your local parks daily, your state parks a few times a year, and your national parks perhaps but once in a lifetime.” Nature is available in almost every park, and there are parks close to where you live.
- **Parks provide a sense of adventure for kids.** Parks have the unique ability to provide kids with a sense of adventure. Every hike in the woods brings new things to see, and around every turn there is something new to discover. Kids gain a sense of accomplishment from challenges met outdoors, which leads to greater self-confidence and self-worth. Parks are a great place for kids to take risks, within acceptable limits, and to discover that the fears they have about the unknown are conquerable. The snake they encountered in the woods didn't fall out of a tree and try to bite them. They didn't get covered with ticks after taking a hike in the woods. Every successful adventure in the park contributes to their maturity and to kids developing a sense of stewardship for wildlife, natural resources, and open spaces.



- **Parks are a place to remember.** Some of our earliest and most special memories were formed in parks—lifetime experiences that we remember with great satisfaction. Parks were special places where we forged friendships, had adventures, and learned new things about life and ourselves. Parks still provide these kinds of experiences to kids, and they produce powerful positive memories, affecting kids in ways we cannot always easily perceive. These park experiences influence their ethics, their career choices, and even how they will be as parents.

Parks connect kids to nature in all the right ways. Find out where your close-to-home local parks are and get to know the park personnel who supervise them. Enable your kids to play there - they will be grateful for the rest of their lives.

The Harmony Arboretum Prairie

On Thursday, August 9, ten people went for a guided hike through the Harmony Prairie with wildflower enthusiasts Linda Warren, UWEX, and Adrian Konell of NativeWay Native Plant Nursery. Participants learned about prairie ecosystems, native plants, wildlife, and more.



An introduction to the prairie



Gray-headed coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*)



Milkweed Tussock Moth (*Euchaetes egle*)



Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) in flower



Compass Plant (*Silphium laciniatum*)



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 <http://therealnorth.com/museums.htm>.
- September 2** **Ice Cream Social at West Shore Fishing Museum.** 12-4p.m. Popular family and community picnic offering live music, huge raffle, brats, pie and ice cream, draft root beer, kids' games and play area. Located on M-35 15 miles north of Menominee.
- September 8** **Country Fling.** 1pm at Parkway Inn, N9906 Parkway Road in Crivitz. Food, beverages and booyah with music by Donna and the Beelers and Rock n' Randy. For more information call Ronald at 715-757-3451.
- September 8** **Kids' Carnival Day.** Peshtigo Pharmacy, 11am-1p.m. Carnival games, face painting, balloon animals, prizes, snacks. 25% off all toys!
- September 22** **Peshtigo Historical Days.** 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 with fireworks at dusk.
- September 24** **Tailgate Party.** Peshtigo Pharmacy. Go Pack Go! Chili Cookoff. Stop in and have a bowl of Chili and vote on the best one! Wear your green & Gold and be entered to win a prize. Make your own coupon.
- September 29** **Crivitz Fall Harvestfest Craft Show.** Over 55 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 Debbie Atwood at 715-854-2891.
- September 29** **Menominee Animal Shelter Annual Auction.** Auction held at the Pullman House in Menominee with silent auction items, oral auction and great food. Get your Christmas shopping done early and help our four legged friends. For more information and tickets call 906-864-PAWS.
- 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 cyclepath360.com.
- October 6** **Wausaukee Fall Festival.** Village-wide event with crafters, vendors, bake sales, kids' games, food, music, sidewalk sales, farmers markets & more!
- October 6** **Pumpkin Fest for Homeless Pets.** 10am-3pm at Peterman Brook Herb Farm, N6280 Riverview Road Porterfield, WI. Call 715-927-2330 or email: petermanbrookherbfarm@hughes.net for more information.
- October 20** **Spooktacular Kids' Triathlon.** 1pm at River Cities Community Pool. The mission of this swim-bike-run event is to provide a positive triathlon experience to children ages 12 and under. This event celebrates health, self-esteem, self-confidence, and fun, in a safe, family-friendly environment. Call 715-735-0585 or visit www.rivercitiespool.org for more information.

What's New at Harmony Arboretum?



A lot has been going on at the Harmony Arboretum! Volunteers & UW-Extension staff have been hard at work maintaining the gardens and adding new features. Below is the greenhouse (it should be complete by the end of August) and part of the "Fairy Garden" that folks from the Volunteer Center of Marinette County worked on (see page 2). Visitors have been exploring the variety of settings the Harmony Arboretum has to offer.



On Thursday, July 26, a group from Crivitz Youth Inc. visited for a day of nature activities, which included insect identification, a scavenger hunt, and a stroll through the prairie. The children explored the gardens, caught toads, frogs and bugs, smelled and touched different plants, found

their way through the hedge maze, and enjoyed a nice day outside while having fun!



Identifying insects using an identification guide

In the prairie they took a break at the new 'rest stop' - a log bench - and enjoyed a nice view (below).



Other new additions to Harmony include the planters in the Children's Learning Garden for the sensory garden, painted by Barbara Kane Anderson – she is also the artist who painted the mural for the 'Chipmunk's Tunnel' (both pictured at right). Come out to Harmony and enjoy the gardens, trails, and scenery – it's free and open

HARMONY ARBORETUM SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Located seven miles west of the City of Marinette off 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; <http://marinette.uwex.edu>.

September 1 - Frost Protection & Season Extension, 9:00 - 10:30 am

Tender vegetable plants can still have positive growth in September and October, but we need to properly protect them from the first frost events of the year. We'll also discuss how to really extend the growing season for cool-season vegetables, with growth as late as into December.

September 8 - Plant Sale, 9:00 am - noon

Plants grown by Northern Lights Master Gardeners for sale at the Harmony Demonstration Gardens. This is the perfect time for planting perennials.

September 13 - Harvesting & Storing Vegetables, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Now that we've produced a bounty of home-grown (or locally-purchased) vegetables, we need to properly harvest and store them to achieve maximum flavor and storability.



October 20 - Halloween Family Fun Fest, 4:00 - 8:00 pm

Dress for the weather in your Halloween costume and come to Harmony Gardens for lots of hands-on nature crafts, activities, & pumpkin carving for children and adults. Vote for your favorite in the make-a-scarecrow competition, or perhaps enter one of your own (see the website above for details and categories). Refreshments will be available; admission is free.

November 8 - Astronomy at the Arboretum 6:00—7:30 pm

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. Free public program. Call 715-732-7780 for more information.



year-round to the public. For questions, please use the contact information in the "Schedule of Events" above.

