

# Northwoods Journal – August 2011

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

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## The Menominee River State Park & Recreation Area: Marinette County's Newest State Park

*By Chuck Druckrey, Water Resource Specialist*

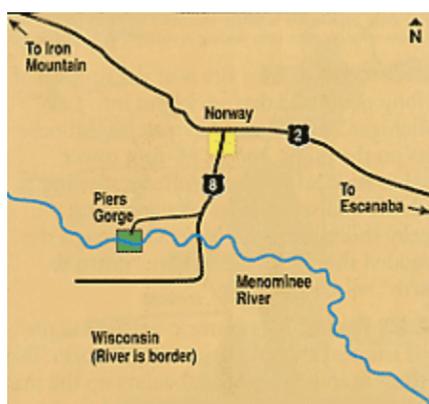
If someone asked you to name the newest state park in Marinette County would you know the name? Hint, it's not named after a recent Governor, nor is it located on Cauldron Falls Flowage! The correct answer is the **Menominee River State Park and Recreation Area!**



*Pemene Falls – photo courtesy of WDNR*

Our newest State Park was created in November of 2010 when the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board approved the purchase of 2,714 acres of land on the Menominee River from the Wisconsin Electric Power Company (WEPCO). The land, which is primarily in the Town of Niagara, is located immediately upstream from the Menominee River Natural Resources Area, which was itself created twelve years earlier when the Richard Mellon Foundation and the Conservation Fund purchased the land from the Wisconsin Public Service Corporation and gave it to the Wisconsin DNR. Together these lands, encompassing 4,833 acres, will be managed as the Menominee River State Park and Recreation Area. The Michigan DNR has acquired an almost equal amount of land on the Michigan side of the river, providing additional protection for this unspoiled river.

The park will have two distinct tracts separated by about 4 miles of river. The Piers Gorge tract begins just east of the city of Niagara and includes 1.4 miles of river frontage along what many consider to be the biggest and best whitewater in the Midwest. Within Piers Gorge there are several rapids and falls with impressive drops, standing waves, and holes. Whitewater enthusiasts have named many of the features with descriptive names like the "Interstate Surfing Wave", "Chicken Surfer", "Hell Hole", and "Terminal Surfer". Whitewater kayak and canoe enthusiasts from throughout the Midwest come to test their skill in Piers Gorge.



*Map of Piers Gorge area, courtesy of Michigan DNR*

The rest of us can experience the thrill on a raft with several local establishments that conduct guided trips through the gorge. Even if you never intend to launch yourself down a waterfall and into 5-foot tall standing waves, you will appreciate the gorge for its spectacular scenery. A walking trail along the river begins at the end of Piers Gorge Road, which is located off Highway 8 on the Michigan side of the river.



*Below the Pemene scenic overlook – photo courtesy of WDNR*

The Quiver Falls tract begins approximately 1.2 miles downstream from the Sturgeon Falls Dam and continues for nearly 16 miles along the banks of the Menominee River, ending just above the bridge at County Highway Z. This unspoiled river corridor provides some of the most beautiful and unspoiled scenery in Marinette County. Within the park the river flows past numerous rock outcrops, high wooded banks, and narrow constrictions. According to the DNR, this area of the river supports an excellent smallmouth bass population with good numbers of northern pike and walleye as well.



*Above Quiver Falls – photo courtesy of WDNR*

Although the flow is generally slow to moderate in this section, there are a few areas of fast water and two named rapids. Quiver Falls is located about halfway through the park and consists of a challenging rapid (Class II to III) on either side of some large islands. These rapids develop large standing waves in high water and can be portaged on the Wisconsin side of the river. Near the end of the park you will find Pemene Falls, a dangerous Class IV drop through a narrow constriction in a granite outcrop. The falls can be portaged, and viewed, from the Michigan side of the river.

In addition to the scenic qualities and recreational opportunities, the river corridor

*Continued next page*

## Peshtigo River Trail Paddle Trip

*Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.*



Come 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 be on hand to guide the group along the river and answer questions about the area. Bring your own canoe/kayak or use one of our canoes (limited supply of 6 canoes – *call to reserve a canoe starting August 29 at 9am*).

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

*Menominee River Park, continued*

provides critical wildlife habitat for game and non-game species alike. Deer and bear are reportedly abundant in the park along with numerous furbearers and several state threatened or endangered species including the grey wolf, bald eagle, pygmy snaketail, Blanding's turtle, and others.



*Pygmy Snake tail dragonfly, photo courtesy of W.A. Smith, WDNR*



*Blanding's Turtle, photo courtesy of A.B. Sheldon*

The next step in the process will be the creation of a master plan for the park. According to Property Manager David Halfmann, a timeline for master planning has not been set. However, until a plan has been developed the park will be managed according to the existing plan for the Menominee River Natural Resource Area (MRNRA). This includes managing forests within 200 feet of the river as an "old growth reserve" to preserve and enhance the natural beauty of the river corridor. Outside of the old growth reserve, the forest will be managed to maintain a diverse habitat. This will be accomplished by managing some stands of pine as old growth, establishing good age class diversity, and encouraging a patchwork of forest types as soil conditions allow.

Recreational development within the MRNRA has included improved signage, improved access at scenic overlooks, creation of hiking trails, and two primitive walk-in/boat-in campsites along the river. According to Mr. Halfmann, no decisions have been made regarding recreational development for the rest of the state park but opportunities exist for more primitive campsites, hiking trails, and access improvements. Until the master plan is completed, improvements will likely be limited to improving signage on the property.

If you want to visit the Quiver Falls tract, road access is best at Pemene Falls (take Verhayen Lane off of Highway Z) and at Quiver falls (take Pemene Dam Road off of Highway R). Access in the northern half of the park is primarily by unimproved logging roads and forest trails off of Hazard and Rattie Roads in the town of Niagara. A boat landing on Rattie Road provides access to the river.

For maps and more information about the Menominee River State Park and Recreation Area check out the DNR website at <http://dnr.wi.gov> and search for "Menominee River Natural Resources Area". Property Manager David Halfmann can be contacted at [David.Halfmann@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:David.Halfmann@Wisconsin.gov) or (715) 856-9160.



## Another Successful Year for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Sand Lake Conservation Camp at Camp Bird



The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Sand Lake Conservation Camp held at Camp Bird near Crivitz was again a success this year, with 80 campers from 18 Wisconsin counties and 1 Upper Michigan county. This event is organized by the Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Division (LWCD) and is for youth going into 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall. Sand Lake Conservation Camp provides positive educational outdoor experiences, helps foster an appreciation for nature, and introduces a variety of opportunities in natural resources and conservation careers.



*2011 Sand Lake Conservation Camp participants*

Campers learned about a variety of topics - such as forestry, aquatic habitats, herptiles and other wildlife - while participating in hands-on activities. Other educational presentations were given by Matt Meade, DNR Conservation Warden, and Lindsay Lesmeister, a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Field Technician. They discussed their duties, their agencies and education backgrounds, and showed tools they use everyday in the field.



*Phil Thibodeau, Camp Bird staff, shows native turtle species to campers in the Nature Center*



*Lindsay Lesmeister, US Fish & Wildlife, demonstrates how a Fyke net works with the help of a camper*

Kim Diedrich and Jody Sperduto from the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary in Green Bay also visited Conservation Camp. They brought along some native Wisconsin wildlife and discussed habitat, wildlife rehabilitation, and wildlife conservation.



*Bubo the great-horned owl from Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary of Green Bay*

This was our third year offering "choice activities" for campers. Choice activities this year included trapping, GPS/geocaching, archery, canoeing, hiking, t-shirt design, geology, spinner making, and participating in a low-ropes challenge course. Most choice activities are taught by LWCD staff; Richard and Maryann Clark of Clark's Willowtree Fur of Coleman presented the trapping sessions. Two offsite trips - a fishing excursion and a visit to a hydro dam - were also offered. Competitive activities between cabins included campfire building; a scavenger hunt; and "Conservation Jeopardy", which reviews the major topics introduced during camp.



*Paul Fredrich, Kewaunee County LWCD, instructs a camper in proper archery techniques*

Sand Lake Conservation Camp is funded by registration fees, grants, and donations. This year, we received a generous grant from the Wisconsin Public Service Foundation, as well as several anonymous donations. Several organizations sponsored campers this year: the Marinette and Green Bay Chapters of Trout Unlimited; the American Legion Post 280 of Coleman; the Friends of Camp Bird; and Glacierland Resource Conservation & Development. Land & Water Conservation offices in Sauk, Washington, Waupaca, and Portage Counties joined Marinette County in offering scholarships to campers. Thank you to all the sponsors and donors - your generous support and dedication to youth programs like Sand Lake Conservation Camp is much appreciated.

*And a well-deserved thank you goes to all the staff, cooks, lifeguards, and Camp Bird staff - without your hard work and commitment, this camp would not be possible!*

Next year's tentative camp dates are June 21-23, 2012 (registration materials should be available by mid-March). For more information about Sand Lake Conservation Camp, or similar camps for older students, please visit the Marinette County website at [www.marinettecounty.com](http://www.marinettecounty.com) or contact Anne Bartels, Information & Education Specialist/Sand Lake Conservation Camp Director, by phone at 715-732-7784 or by email, [abartels@marinettecounty.com](mailto:abartels@marinettecounty.com).



## Hands-on Nature at the Marinette County Fair



Visit our educational displays at the Marinette County Fair August 25-28<sup>th</sup> at the Wausaukee Fairgrounds!

The Education Area is co-sponsored by the Marinette County UW-Extension, Land & Water Conservation, and the Parks Department. The Education Area is located inside the main Exhibit Building. Explore the displays, pick up brochures or maps, and visit with department staff for questions or concerns you may have.



Interactive displays, brochures, and more

Returning this year is the "Herptile Habitat" display, featuring live reptiles and amphibians. Herptiles are crucial to the food web, and act as "biological indicators" to help determine the health of wetland habitats. Various species of amphibians and reptiles will be on display. Visitors will get a close-up look at the critters that help regulate pest populations, provide food for other animals, and add to the beauty and mystique of our Northwoods home.



Getting to know the Western Fox Snake, also known as a Pine Snake

If you have any questions about what we do in the Land & Water Conservation Division, UW-Extension, or the Parks Department, stop by the Education Area or contact us: UW-Extension at 715-732-7510; Land & Water Conservation at 715-732-7780; and Parks at 715-732-7530.

## 2012 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 backyard, 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?

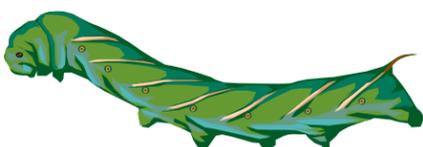
Designing a poster and researching the theme can give you a voice in your community on important conservation issues. Good posters tell important stories to present and future generations. Posters capture people's attention with a powerful graphic and inspire with a message to your community. Designing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



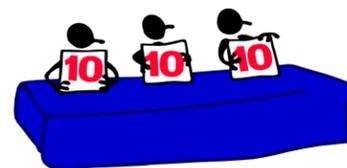
### Contest Rules

- 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](mailto: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](http://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 the 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 1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$25, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$20, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



## Invasive Species Threaten Marinette County Forests

By Steve Kaufman, WDNR Forester

Forests account for 80% of the land in Marinette County. As a forester, it's my job to promote the sustainable management of this resource, which includes ensuring our forests regrow as the current forests age. Currently, re-growing trees like red oak and sugar maple is extremely difficult as deer prefer eating these tree species over other trees and shrubs.

But a new, more permanent threat is posed to make re-growing these species nearly impossible. Invasive species such as buckthorn, garlic mustard, and barberry have begun to show up in our forests. Many of these infestations begin from plants in home owners' yards. Barberry is typically planted as an ornamental shrub which is a small, colorful shrub. But when it seeds into a forest it becomes a 5 foot tall thicket which takes over the understory of a forest.



Buckthorn invading a forest. Photo courtesy of <http://www.ipaw.org>

The impacts of buckthorn and garlic mustard are even greater. Even total removal of these plants often fails in irradiating them as the seeds in the soil remain viable for many years. To make matters worse, birds spread seeds to parts of the county that were formerly free of these invasive species.

Removal of these species from yards and early detection in forests are essential to keeping these destructive plants from overtaking our forests which will lead to the loss of our oak and maple forests.



Garlic Mustard infestation. Photo courtesy of U.S. Forest Service

Unless we act, the forests we have today will not be here for future generations to enjoy, or support the timber products industry which accounts for 19 percent of the total economic output in Marinette County. The website below has information on the county's forest resources, forestry-related economic impacts, forestland maps, and other related issues: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/landcenter/forestplanning/CountyPages/marinette.htm#Forestla>.

There are many, many more invasive species than the three mentioned above. For more information about these and other invasive forest plants, visit the WDNR online at [http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh/invasive\\_plants.htm](http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh/invasive_plants.htm), or visit the Invasive Plants of Wisconsin website: <http://www.ipaw.org/>.

## Zebra Mussels Spreading to Inland Lakes

By Robert Ruleau, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator

Excerpt taken from, *Zebra Mussels: Questions and Answers for Inland Lake Managers* (NOAA Sea Grant) :

*"The zebra mussel invasion of North America has generated concern and anxiety among inland lake users and property owners about the potential impacts of zebra mussels on inland lakes. Despite the progress made in understanding the causes and consequences of the zebra mussel invasion, it is still impossible to predict exactly which lakes will be invaded or how they will be impacted. Inland water users armed with knowledge about the zebra mussel, however, can help prevent the spread and impacts of this exotic species."*

### What are zebra mussels?

Zebra mussels are small (< 4 cm/1.5 in), bivalve (shell composed of 2 halves) molluscs (relatives of clams). Their shells characteristically have alternating light and dark bands (like a zebra) but may be entirely light or dark. Two species of zebra mussels have invaded North America, *Dreissena polymorpha* and *Dreissena bugensis*. *Dreissena bugensis* is also referred to as the quagga mussel. Discovered after the zebra mussel, the quagga mussel gets its name from an extinct relative of the zebra.



### Where did they come from? How did they get here?

Zebra mussels are native to drainages of the Black, Caspian, and Aral seas in Eastern Europe - Western Asia (Eurasia). They were most likely brought to North America as larvae in ballast water of ships that traveled from freshwater Eurasian ports inhabited by the mussels, across the Atlantic, and into the Great Lakes, where the ballast water and the zebra mussel larvae it contained were released.

### How do they spread?

Zebra mussel larvae (called *veligers*) and adults can be spread by many mechanisms including water currents, anglers' bait buckets, and boaters' bilge and livewells. Adults can also be spread when they attach to boats and aquatic plants, which are then transported to other lakes. Aquatic plants are usually transported accidentally when they become entangled on the boat motor or the boat trailer's axle, license plate, lights, etc. Scientists currently believe that most inland lakes become infested by an introduction of adults rather than veligers.



### How do zebra mussels reproduce?

Zebra mussels usually reach reproductive maturity by the end of their first year. Reproduction occurs through spawning when sperm and eggs are released into the water. Spawning peaks at water temperatures of about 20 C (68 F). A fertilized egg results in a free-swimming, planktonic larva called a *veliger*. This

veliger remains suspended in the water column for 1 to 5 weeks, and then begins to sink and search for a stable surface (e.g., rocks, aquatic plants, water intakes, boat hulls) on which to live, grow and reproduce.

### Why should I be concerned?

Because zebra mussels can interfere with recreational use of a lake and can substantially alter its ecosystem, anyone who lives or plays on an inland lake should be concerned about the possible impacts of zebra mussels. Exactly which impacts will occur, however, is difficult to predict. The population size and therefore the potential impacts depend on several characteristics of the lake (e.g., turbidity, chlorophyll *a*, amount of hard substrate) that can affect zebra mussel populations.

There are several possible impacts that could result, however, based on experiences in the Great Lakes and in inland lakes already invaded by zebra mussels. These scenarios are based on the facts that:

- 1) Zebra mussels can attach to almost any hard surface;
- 2) Each mussel can filter up to 1 liter (1.06 quarts) of water per day; and
- 3) Their shells are sharp

#### • A knack for attachment

Zebra mussels attach to unprotected, submerged surfaces by producing adhesive structures called byssal threads. Boats, boat motors, water intake pipes, submersible pumps, docks, floats, rocks, native mussels, and aquatic plants are all susceptible to being colonized by zebra mussels. Impacts of zebra mussel attachment to these objects range from inconvenience, to expensive repairs, to death (of native mussels).



Zebra mussels encrust a crayfish

#### • Fanatic filterers

Zebra mussels feed by drawing water into their bodies and straining out most of the suspended microscopic plants, animals, and debris for food. This process can lead to increased water clarity and a depleted food supply for other organisms in the lake. Increased water clarity (and thus increased light penetration) can lead to an increase in the amount of rooted vegetation. A depleted food supply may affect the food web, including game fishes. The filtering process can also lead to blue-green algal blooms. When filtering, zebra mussels tend to reject blue-green algae, and spit them back into the water. These blue-greens are then able to thrive because other types of algae are reduced.

#### • Caution: sharp edges!

Zebra mussel shells can easily cut human skin. If they accumulate on beaches or in swimming areas, enjoyment and use of these resources can decline. Given this, as well as the other potential impacts discussed above, your ability to use an inland lake for recreation may decline if it becomes infested with zebra mussels.

### Is my lake at risk for being invaded?

Because their physical and chemical characteristics fall within the ranges required by the zebra

Continued next page



*Zebra Mussels, continued*

mussel, most of the lakes in the Great Lakes region are at risk for being invaded by this exotic species. The degree of risk for your lake can vary, however, depending on specific characteristics, especially water temperature (critical to growth and reproduction) and calcium (necessary for shell formation). Degree of risk also depends on a lake's connection to water bodies already infested with zebra mussels, including boats launched on your lake after being used in an infested waterway.

**How can I keep zebra mussels out of my lake?**

Many lakes become infested with zebra mussels as a result of accidental introductions by humans. These introductions can be prevented. Property owners and other recreational water users can be informed about zebra mussels and ways to prevent their spread through boat-landing signs, mailings, discussions at association meetings, etc. Studies have shown that the more effort that is put toward education, the more likely a recreational water user will take steps to prevent their spread. Some lake associations eager to reduce the likelihood of an introduction provide a boat washing station, and require its use before allowing a boat to launch into their lakes. Other lake associations require sterilization and quarantine of boats before they are allowed on their lakes.



*A Lake Erie beach filled with mussel shells*

**How can I tell if zebra mussels are in my lake?**

Your lake can be monitored for both zebra mussel veligers and adults. Veliger monitoring provides the earliest possible detection of an established population, thus allowing lake property owners to protect their equipment (e.g., intake pipes and boat motors) from being colonized by mature adult zebra mussels and settling veligers. Early detection also allows your lake users to take immediate steps to avoid spreading veligers to neighboring lakes. You can monitor for adults by:

1) Check immersed hard substrates (e.g., concrete blocks) in areas around the lake and checking them periodically during summer and fall

**AND**

2) Checking submersed portions of recreational

equipment (e.g., boats, dock supports, floats, etc.) when they are removed from the lake for winter storage. It is important to monitor several areas of the lake because zebra mussels can be localized for a long period before they spread to other areas. Your lake may already be part of a zebra mussel monitoring program. Therefore, check with local authorities and utilities before beginning a monitoring venture.

**How can I reduce the impact of zebra mussels?**

Boat motors should be flushed and thoroughly drained after boating to prevent zebra mussels from surviving and settling within the cooling system. Boat lifts can prevent zebra mussels from colonizing boat hulls. Frequent use (e.g., 1-2 times per week) of the boat at high speed can strip off any colonized mussels from the boat hull. Pontoon boats, however, may not reach sufficient speed to remove the mussels. Boat transoms, trim tabs, and rubber boots should be visually inspected; any attached zebra mussels can be removed by hand.

Boats and boat motors can be further protected against zebra mussels through the use of protective paints and coatings. Zebra mussels will accumulate on docks and floats, but the mussels will die if the docks and floats are pulled up on land during the winter. Swimmers can protect their feet from cuts by zebra mussel shells by wearing sandals or swimsocks/aquasocks. Water intakes can be protected by converting them to sand-filter intakes. Some property owners allow inexpensive intakes (e.g., PVC pipe) to become clogged, and replace them when necessary. Water pumps and a home's internal piping can be protected by installing a filter between the lake and the pump.



*A zebra mussel filter system. Photo courtesy of <http://www.zebramussel.com>*

**Who should I contact if I find zebra mussels in my lake?**

Outside of Lake Noquebay, Zebra Mussels are not known to be present in any other inland lake in Marinette County. If you suspect you have found any, preserve the zebra mussels with rubbing alcohol or by freezing. Preservation of the specimen allows it to be positively identified by a biologist, and reporting your findings allows scientists to track the spread of zebra mussels. Reporting zebra mussel sightings also allows local authorities to share your findings with other users of the lake, allowing them to take appropriate precautions to protect their equipment and avoid spreading the mussels to other waterways.

If you suspect that your lake has Zebra Mussels, please report it to Robert Ruleau, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, at 715-732-7642 or email him at [rruleau@marinettecounty.com](mailto:rruleau@marinettecounty.com). If you would like to learn more about non-native, aquatic invasive species in general, please visit the Marinette County website (Marinette County home page → Departments → Land Information → Aquatic Invasive Species)



## 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](mailto:hbayerl@hotmail.com).

**Menominee Farmers Market.**

Timeless Treasures Antique Mall, 902 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.marinettecounty.com) and click on the link at the bottom of the page. We can even send you an e-mail reminder when each new issue is posted on our website. Please contact Anne Bartels, Information & Education Specialist, at [abartels@marinettecounty.com](mailto:abartels@marinettecounty.com) or call 715-732-7784 for more information.





## Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB)

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

The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB), *Halymorpha halys*, is an invasive, exotic insect pest recently introduced into the United States, and even more recently in Wisconsin. The native range of the BMSB includes China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan. The first confirmed North American capture occurred in Pennsylvania in 2001 and it now has reproducing populations from Florida to Maine, west to Indiana. Sightings have occurred in all the eastern Midwest states, including Wisconsin.

The first detections of BMSB in Wisconsin were adults in March 2010. Two additional adults were also collected the following November, one each in Dane and Manitowoc Counties. Unverified reports of BMSB have subsequently come from Polk and Ozaukee Counties. Wisconsin is listed as a state with "sightings only" because only the adult life stage was documented. As of May 2011, neither eggs nor nymphs have been documented in Wisconsin. This status is likely to change as more people will be monitoring and scouting for this insect this coming growing season.



Adult Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, photo courtesy David R. Lance, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org

### Why care?

If (when?) it becomes established in the Marinette County area, BMSB may become an extremely significant pest of many agricultural and home garden crops. BMSB have piercing-sucking (needle-like) mouth parts and will feed on a wide host range of plants that have seeds or fruit including large and small commercial fruits like pear, apples, peach, raspberry, and grapes. Many ornamental plants are also at risk as are field, (corn and soybean) and vegetable crops (dried bean, green beans and sweet corn to name a few). Almost any crop can be at risk. Adults are very mobile and will readily move from plants with early ripening fruit to ones which ripen later making season-long damage a distinct possibility.

Just using apples as an example, BMSB feeding in eastern orchards has commonly affected 25% of all fruit, with some reports of higher losses. Early feeding on apple fruit results in distortion which is often referred to as "cat-facing" and makes the fruit unmarketable for commercial operations and significantly lost quality in home orchards. Feeding later in the season leaves areas that are water soaked and necrotic from the digestive juices and open to secondary infection. Symptoms may not show up until after storage.



Fruit damage. Photo courtesy of Steve Jacobs - Dept. of Entomology, PSU

### Identification

The adult BMSB is very similar in size, shape,

and appearance to our native stink bugs. It is approximately 5/8 to 3/4 inch long and has the typical "shield" shaped appearance of other stink bugs. However, it does have characteristics which are useful for accurate identification.

The most identifiable characteristics of the adult BMSB is alternating light to brown spots on the outer edge of their abdomen. The antennae also have alternating brown and light bands and their eyes are dark red. Their bodies do have brown/white mottling; however, this characteristic does not separate the BMSB from our native brown stink bug. Other species of insects such as squash bugs and leaf footed bugs may be similar in color to BMSB, but they do not have the characteristic shield-shape of stink bugs.

The immature stages, called *nymphs*, are smaller than adults and range in size from a pin head to 1/2 inch in length. Nymphs are oval and have dark red eyes similar to the adults. Nymphs do vary in color and appearance with age. Initially, they range in color from a yellowish red to a creamy white with reddish spots just prior to turning into adults. BMSB eggs are light green to yellow, barrel shaped and found in clusters of 20-30 eggs on the undersides of leaves.



Brown Marmorated Stink Bug nymph, photo courtesy David R. Lance, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org

### Monitoring and Management.

The WI Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection will be conducting monitoring for this insect. However, there are currently no established trapping methods, other than visual monitoring and physically knocking branches to dislodge insects and catch them on paper or sheets or similar materials. Various trapping methods are being tested with the anticipation of having one or more established methods available within a few years.

It is anticipated that BMSB will have one generation in Wisconsin, due to our climate, but it is possible that in warm years, a second (larger population) generation may occur. States with significant BMSB experience indicate that adults overwinter in protected sites and become active during the first warm spring days. During this time, they will likely mate and lay eggs during May through August. Again, how their seasonal occurrence will play out in Wisconsin remains to be documented.

BMSB is an invasive, non native insect, thus there are few biological controls available. To date, there are no field trials in which we can base insecticide control decisions on. Additionally, many insecticide labels have not been updated by the manufacturer to include this specific insect on their labels. The insecticide active ingredients available to homeowners that are likely to perform adequately include *malathion*, *carbaryl*, *imidacloprid*, and *dimethoate*. Some other categories that would be expected to work against stink bugs have shown to not work very well against BMSB.

If you believe you have found BMSB in our area, please either bring a sample to your closest UW-Extension office, or send high quality, clear digital pictures to [scott.reuss@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:scott.reuss@ces.uwex.edu). If you have any type of agricultural or horticultural

pest issue, contact Scott Reuss at the Marinette County UW-Extension office at 715-732-7510 or use the above e-mail. This article was paraphrased from a larger version written by Bryan Jensen, UW-Madison IPM Outreach Manager.

## Open House at Harmony Display Gardens!

Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

This event will be full of family fun opportunities. Come and tour the gardens and taste some of the 279 varieties of tomatoes being grown this year! Bring the children to see the newly opened Children's Learning Garden and take part in the day's activities. The new 36-foot mural of a woodland scene is alone worth a visit!



Woodland scene mural to be placed at the Children's Garden. From left to right: artist Barbara Kane Anderson; Linda Warren, UWEX; and Connie Fletcher, Master Gardener

### Here are some of the various events:

- ☺ Children's story time
- ☺ Explore the "underground tunnel" and the hands-on nature display
- ☺ Go on a scavenger hunt
- ☺ Make a stamp book of animal tracks
- ☺ Geocaching – bring your GPS
- ☺ Taste-test fresh tomatoes!
- ☺ Sample 'New-to-you' salad greens
- ☺ Tour the Herb, Perennial and Vegetable Gardens
- ☺ Learn how to extend your season with fall vegetables

Check out the UW-Extension website at <http://marinette.uwex.edu>, or call 715-732-7510, for a more detailed schedule nearer the date. We can also answer any general gardening & horticulture questions that you have.

## Northwoods Journal

Volume 9, Issue 3

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](mailto:abartels@marinettecounty.com)





## Landscaping for Wildlife Using Habitat Elements

By Aleta DiRienzo, Database Specialist/Program Assistant

Why go to the trouble of landscaping in a way that benefits wildlife? Some people do it for educational purposes. Others do it for the sheer enjoyment of observing the wildlife attracted to the landscaping they have done. Wildlife-friendly landscaping with native plants can also help conserve water.



If you want to landscape for wildlife, you should not only consider the species you are aiming to attract, but its habitat needs. Habitat has four elements: food, water, cover and space. Considering how these elements work together in the landscape will help you attract a wider variety of insect and wildlife species. Birds, for example need places where they can feed, sing, court, nest, rest and hide.

Planting an assortment of grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees will ensure a variety of natural food sources for wildlife. Seeds from grasses and forbs are favored by sparrows and other seed-eating birds. Berry producing shrubs provide food for waxwings, robins, and orioles. Hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees are attracted to your yard naturally by planting nectar producing plants in mass and in clusters. This not only provides for easier landings, but also provides more nectar in a single stop to your landscape. Butterfly-favored plants are not limited to flowers, either - there are nectar-producing vines, shrubs, and trees as well. You can also supplement natural foods by providing seed, suet and sugar water.



Year-round bird feeding has become a very popular pastime. Birders who, within their landscaping, provide summer feeding stations can be even more successful in attracting birds than their cold-weather counterparts. Although the number of birds may be less, the variety of migratory birds add color and diversity to warm weather feeding stations. Seed and suet attract other, potentially unwanted wildlife such as squirrels, both grey and red, and chipmunks. Squirrels are smart creatures and will try to raid any type of birdseed feeder. Only feed suet during the colder months of autumn and winter (unless you purchase commercial no-melt suet), otherwise it will turn sour and rancid. Preformed suet blocks can be purchased or homemade.

Place feeders near trees and bushes, and use different types such as tube feeders, hanging trays, and thistle socks. Goldfinches prefer Nyger thistle, especially when provided in a mesh bag. Flickers and woodpeckers feed on black oil sunflower seeds from a hanging tray more readily than from a tube feeder or on the ground. Mourning doves and quail prefer to feed from the ground.

Water can be provided in a pedestal bird bath, ground level water dish, water garden or pond. While most birds benefit from a pedestal bird bath, reptiles, amphibians and small mammals cannot; a ground level water source is needed. A birdbath does not provide the amount of water, nor the aquatic vegetation needed for fish, frogs, toads, and aquatic invertebrates such as damselflies and dragonflies. If this is your goal, a pond may be the best choice. Male butterflies are attracted to wet soil or pond edges. From these areas they extract sodium and other nutrients needed for mating. Any water source deeper than several inches should have substrate such as rocks, a brick or even a ramp to allow smaller critters a safe access. Also, be sure to check local ordinances as there may be fencing requirements for water features that exceed a certain depth.



Cover or shelter is needed by all wildlife for hiding, roosting, nesting, and, in some cases, hibernation. Natural cover such as rocks, downed logs, and brush piles provide ground cover that is needed for small mammals, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates. Natural cover can also be provided in the form of vegetation that provides ground cover, mid-story cover, and canopy cover. Certain ground nesting birds need grasses and forbs in which they conceal their nest and eggs. Shrubs and vines can be useful escape cover for small birds, especially when they are strategically planted near bird feeding stations or seed-producing flowers and grasses. Trees provide elevated nesting and roosting sites.

Standing dead trees, called *snags*, provide nesting sites and food sources for cavity excavators, like woodpeckers. They will nest in the cavity for that year only, but other cavity nesters unable to make their own cavity will use the ones left behind by woodpeckers. Snags also provide great perching and roosting sites, especially for larger birds. Birds, when not nesting, rest in between periods of feeding and sleep in a protected roost site.



Artificial cover can be an important contribution to your landscape and can be provided in the form of bird and bat houses. Be aware that these houses have special specifications for different species. It is important to research the entrance diameters for different species of birds you wish to attract. The wrong diameter can allow non-native birds to overtake a nest box and push the native species out.



Many wildlife species are territorial, defending an area that contains the food, water, and cover they need. Species not territorial occupy a home range within which they perform the daily functions to find food, water and cover. The amount of space needed for a territory or home range varies with the species, the quality of the habitat, and the time of year. For example, many birds are solitary or paired in summer and flock together in the winter.

Once your backyard provides a suitable environment for species survival, you can apply for Backyard Habitat certification. This process can be completed online at the National Wildlife Federation website. Simply fill out a checklist detailing what your backyard has to offer. Categories include natural food sources, supplemental feeders, water, shelter and nesting provisions. You will also answer questions about your habitat size and topography and you will be good to go! You can even order a sign, for an extra fee, if you want people to see that your habitat has been certified.



With your yard landscaped for wildlife, you will become aware and appreciate how all living things, including people, are interconnected and dependent on the same environment for their survival.

Information for this article was found at the following websites:

- ✦ <http://ag.arizona.edu/yavapai/publications/yavcobulletins/landscaping>
- ✦ [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Dave\\_Titterington](http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Dave_Titterington)
- ✦ [www.madisonaudobon.org/audubon/html/attracting\\_birds.pdf](http://www.madisonaudobon.org/audubon/html/attracting_birds.pdf)
- ✦ <http://www.nwf.org/get-outside/outdoor-activities/Garden-for-wildlife/certify-your-wildlife-garden>



## Area Events Calendar

- June-August Bands at Badger Park.** Free concerts Wednesday evenings 6:30-8:30 pm in Badger Park, Peshtigo. Concessions available at 5:15 pm. Concerts are held rain or shine, for more information call 715-582-1141.
- June-August Sunset Concert Series.** Free concerts Tuesday evenings at 7 pm on Stephenson Island in Marinette. Contact Joe at 715-863-2679 for more information.
- July-August Concerts in the Park.** Free concerts Thursday evenings at 7 pm at the band shell in Great Lakes Memorial Marina Park in Menominee, Contact Joe at 715-863-2679 for more information.
- June-October Peshtigo Fire Museum Open.** Museum located on Oconto Avenue in Peshtigo will be open through October 8. Hours are 7 days a week from 10 am-4 pm. For more information call the museum at 715-582-3244.
- August 2 National Night Out at Stephenson Island.** 4-9 pm at Stephenson Island, demonstrations, informational booths, emergency vehicle displays, kids games, DAR duck race, bike giveaway, food, fun and more. Music is from 7-9 pm by Depending on the Weather. Event sponsored by Neighborhood Watch Program and Crime Prevention Unit of the Marinette Police Department in conjunction with the Menominee Police Department. For information call 715-732-5200.
- August 4-7 Waterfront Festival** at Menominee Marina Park. Thursday: children's parade, food booths, children's activities, demonstrations and band. Friday: brats for breakfast, food booths, children's activities, water ball contest, sailboat race and band. Saturday: 5k run & 5k walk, YMCA fitness demonstrations, M&M Amateur Radio Club, food booths, children's activities, Blessing of the Watercraft, windsurfing, fire safety house tours, music, 9th annual festival charity ride and fireworks, Sunday: food booths, parade, windsurfing, band, Drum & Bugle Corp. performances. For more information call 906-863-2656 or 906-864-2201 or visit [www.menomineewaterfrontfestival.com](http://www.menomineewaterfrontfestival.com)
- August 6 Pembine Community Run/Walk** 8 am. 5K run/walk begins in Pembine. For more information contact David at 715-324-5182 or [pembinecommunityrun@yahoo.com](mailto:pembinecommunityrun@yahoo.com).
- August 6 Crivitz Wolverine 5K Run/Walk.** 8 am, community based event to support the Crivitz High School sports programs through the Crivitz Booster Club. For more information contact Michelle at [mgski34@yahoo.com](mailto:mgski34@yahoo.com) or [www.crivitzwolverine.com](http://www.crivitzwolverine.com).
- August 6, 20 M&M Timberjacks Game.** August 6 at 11 am at Spies Field against the upstart Outagamie Outlaws for the Waterfront Festival Bowl; August 20 at 6 pm at Spies Field against the Tri City Bulldogs. \$5 adults, \$2 children 10-17 and children under 10 free.
- August 13 M&M Antique Auto Club Show** 8 am to 5 pm on Menominee's Historic Waterfront and sponsored by The Motor Company. Trophies awarded at 3:30pm. Prizes, free swap space and free admission. For more information call the Motor Company at 715-735-7474 or 800-261-3673.
- August 12, 26 Outdoor Movie Series** at Stephenson Island, Marinette. At dusk and sponsored by the Marinette Recreation Department. Free, fun family event. Bring your blankets and chairs and enjoy the show. All movies are rated PG. Aug. 12 – Despicable Me and August 26 – Tangled. For more information, call 715-732-5222.
- August 20,21 Wild Women Weekend and Herbal Retreat** 10 am to 2 pm located at Peterman Brook Herb Farm N6280 Riverview Road, Porterfield, Wisconsin 54159 Phone: 715-927-2330. How would you like to be dipped in herbs, nature, the outdoors and pampering yourself for a weekend? We are planning an event the weekend of August 20-21 where women can escape to the country, pitch a tent in the apple orchard (optional) and spend two days herbally pampering themselves – visit [www.petermanbrookherbfarm.com](http://www.petermanbrookherbfarm.com).
- August 25-28 Marinette County Fair** at the Wausaukee Fairgrounds. See page 3 for more information.



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

We're making progress after a wet and uncooperative spring and early summer – the underground tunnel mural will be going up soon, and the interactive sundial and wetland area are being worked on too. Come see for yourself what the CLG has to offer at the **OPEN HOUSE on August 21 from 10:30am-2pm** (see page 6 sidebar for more information.) Children from Crivitz Youth, Inc. spent a day at Harmony looking for insects, learning about wildlife, scavenger hunting, and more (pictures at right).

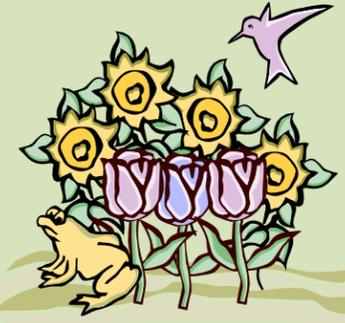


Swamp milkweed blooms in the wetland area



Crops growing in the children's planting area

## Harmony Arboretum Schedule of Events



Located seven miles west of the City of Marinette off of Highway 64, then ½ mile south on County E. *All programs are free unless otherwise stated.* For more information, call UWEX at 715-732-7510 or LWCD at 715-732-7780.

### August 11 – Prairie Walk, 6-8 pm

Tour the 17-acre prairie at Harmony Arboretum with local native plant enthusiasts. Spend an evening learning about prairie plants, their importance, and why people are creating or restoring them. Prairie flowers should be nearing their peak at this time.

### August 18 – Astronomy Night, 8:45-10 pm

Take a stargazing tour of the seasonal night sky, learn about constellations and cultural mythology, look for satellites and meteors, and enjoy an evening under the stars! Some viewing equipment will be available but feel free to bring your own, and dress for the weather. Hot beverages will be provided.

### August 21 – Open House, 10:30 am – 2 pm

*Tomato Tasting ... Children's Garden ... Solar Powered Irrigation Project ... and everything else at Harmony!* This family event has something for everyone. Northern Lights Master Gardeners, UW-Extension, and Land & Water Conservation will showcase all the activities at Harmony. Check nearer the date for details of the program (see page 6 for more information).

### September 8 – Tomato Tasting & Preservation, starts at 6:30 pm (part 4 of 4)

This event will showcase the variation within the tomato world. More than 300 tomato cultivars (donated by Totally Toma-toes) are growing at Harmony during 2011. Presentations and information on proper harvest, storage, and safe preservation will help you make the most of your own tomato harvest.



Crivitz Youth, Inc. exploring the Prairie Trail



Learning about nocturnal wildlife

