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Northwoods Journal

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Enjoying and Protecting Marinette County's Outdoor Life

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The Menominee River

Northern Wisconsin's Ancient River Trails

*By Gail Gilson Pierce, Northern Advocate
River Alliance of Wisconsin*

Wilderness music. It's a subtle thing, best heard when accompanied by the steady, rhythmic cadence of a canoe paddle slicing through a Northwoods river. To some it sounds like the rush of wind through the far-reaching white pine branches that guard the stream banks, or the wail of a common loon communicating his residency on a particular river stretch.

But to those who really listen, it's the echoing barter for trade goods at an ancient Ojibwa village located at the confluence of two northern streams, or the chansons of fur traders keeping their paddling rhythm with song. It's the sounds of commerce made possible as early as 10,000 years ago by the spider web of rivers and lakes interconnected to create the first "highways" that connected northern Wisconsin to the rest of the country.

Wisconsin's watery landscape is truly a gift from the glaciers, and perhaps nowhere is that felt more keenly than in the Northwoods, where even today, our economy is water-based. When the last glaciers retreated from this area, some 10,000 years ago, they left behind large chunks of ice at their receding edges. Over time, as the ice chunks melted, they left depressions on the landscape that filled with rain or groundwater, forming lakes. Glaciers also helped create watershed divides and the rivers that define them. Because rivers often flow into lakes, northern Wisconsin is rich in interconnected water routes.

Mary Burns and John Bates are northern Wisconsin naturalists and water trail historians who make their home on the shores of the Manitowish River, not far from an ancient portage trail. "Early American Indian tribes depended on the river trail systems for quick and efficient travel," said Burns. "They spent the winter in one place and summer in another

so they could best make use of available resources. They might hunt in one area, fish in another, and make maple syrup someplace else," she added.

And all this travel wasn't just confined to the region. "From the Bois Brule River in northwestern Wisconsin, it was just a two mile portage to St. Croix Lake and the headwaters of the St. Croix River, and from there it was easily onward to the Mississippi," Bates said. "Or, early travelers could follow the Flambeau Trail to the Chippewa River or to the Manitowish and then to the Wisconsin. From there they could make their way to Lac Vieux Desert, on to the Brule and Menominee Rivers and right into Lake Michigan," he added.

Evidence of long distance travel and trade is supported through finding copper from Michigan's Upper Peninsula in Louisiana, and Wisconsin archaeological sites containing seashells from the Gulf Coast, obsidian from Wyoming and pipestone from western Minnesota.

Significant Indian village sites sprang up at nearly every major water confluence in the region, including one on Trout Lake in Vilas County where the Trout River leaves the lake. Archaeological reports from the early 1900s documented the presence of burial mounds and evidence of agriculture. These villages also served as major commerce centers beginning in the mid 1600s, when voyageurs arrived in the north country bringing trade goods to Indian villages in exchange for furs to support an insatiable fashion demand in Europe. In fact, a Hudson Bay Trading Post was located very close to the Trout Lake village.

Traveling these water highways was difficult, because eventually travelers had to portage overland to get to the next body of water. The natives knew the portage routes intimately, and were often relied on as guides for European traders and explorers.

RIVERS continued on next page

Join us to explore one of Marinette County's ancient river trails...

P eshtigo **R** iver **T** rail **P** addle **T** rip



*Saturday, September 16th
10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.*

- Free guided paddle trip on the Lower Peshtigo River
- From City of Peshtigo landing to County Rd. BB landing
- Bring your own canoe/kayak or use one of ours (limited supply)
- Wildlife viewing
- Historical sites

*To register, call
715-732-7780*



Youth under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

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**Marinette County
Land & Water
Conservation Division**

Northwoods Journal

Volume 4, Issue 4

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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- › University of Wisconsin-Extension

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Check us out on the web at:

www.marinettecounty.com/lw_home.htm

EMERALD ASH BORER: AN UNWANTED PEST

By Scott Reuss, UWEX Horticulture Agent

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a small, metallic-green beetle that kills ash trees and is spreading through parts of the Midwest. It has not been found in Wisconsin, but has now been identified in three different areas of Northeastern Illinois, and has completely infested lower Michigan, Ohio, and Eastern Indiana. If possible, we want to keep it out of Marinette County's ash resource.

One of the best ways to do that is to not allow any ash trees, ash wood (firewood), or other ash products to come into our area from other areas of the country. Another key is to monitor ash trees for its presence and find initial infestations before they spread.

Why Care? The Emerald Ash Borer can feed on all four of the native ash trees found in Wisconsin, which are some of our most common forest and landscape trees, with an estimated population of 630 million trees in Wisconsin alone. The control for EAB is tree eradication within the infection zone and potential adult spread zone. As the adult beetles can fly one-half mile in a year, that essentially means that all ash trees within one mile of an infection site will be cut down and chipped. Thus, an infestation brought into a hunting cabin because a family member brought a trailer-load of firewood from home may cause all landowners within one mile of that cabin to lose all their ash trees.

What do I look for? The thing that you would most likely see first is symptoms on ash trees. There are many great resources on the Web and available at DNR offices and UW-Extension offices regarding identification of

RIVERS continued

"Portage distances were measured in *pauses*, or rests, taken on the overland trails between water," Burns said. "If the terrain was difficult, the pauses were closer together."

Burns and Bates have done extensive research using journals of early explorers to get a feel for the hardships travelers faced when they had to carry their goods overland between water routes. Bates chuckled as he recounted the trials of Francois Victor Malhiot, an early agent for the North West Fur Company. Malhiot complained terribly of the 45-mile portage called the Flambeau Trail. The trail crossed the watershed divide, which separates the Mississippi River and Great Lakes Basins, a popular travel route.

"...of all the spots and places I have seen in my thirteen years of travels, this is the most horrid and sterile. The Portage road is truly that to heaven because it is narrow, full of over-turned trees, obstacles, thorns, and muskegs. Men who go over it loaded and are obliged to carry baggage over it certainly deserve to be called 'men'."

Bates added, "Travel over the Flambeau Trail was a 120-pause portage. It could take a week or more to walk depending on the trail's condition, the load carried, and how motivated the travelers were."

But adversity breeds resourcefulness, so early water travelers stashed canoes all over the region to avoid having to carry them across portage trails. In fact, they were often filled with trade goods and sunk to create underwater caches. This proved an effective way of preserving and hiding nonperishable goods and

equipment, and protecting boats from weather damage and thieves. As recently as 1930, a Lac du Flambeau resident found a cached dugout canoe well preserved in the Bear River, and used it for several years thereafter.

Today these water trails are, in some cases, still used for commerce, and all still provide opportunity for solitude and quiet travel. The overland portage routes are mostly grown over and known to only a few dedicated historians. But the wilderness music composed during this rich cultural period still exists, for anyone who cares to listen.

"Whenever I paddle the Manitowish, the Bear, the Trout or the Wisconsin – especially on a foggy morning – I can almost imagine coming around a bend and hearing voyageur songs or seeing a dugout canoe because these rivers are still so pristine and isolated. I have this amazing sense of being in a timeless place," Bates concluded.

"I care about these ancient water trails because knowing about them preserves a link to our past and honors our history," Burns added. "It's good to belong to the same membership of travelers as those who went before us."

Special Note: To access material on early water trails of the Lake Superior Region visit: www.marshfield.k12.wi.us/socsci/discovery/bokern. Mary Burns and John Bates may be contacted at manitowish@centurytel.net.

Article reprinted with permission from the River Alliance of Wisconsin www.wisconsinrivers.org.

EAB and its damage. One of these websites is the WI DNR website at:

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/Forestry/FH/Ash/index.htm. You can find pictures of all life stages, damage symptoms, and contact information to report potential infestations there. The adult beetles emerge from D-shaped holes throughout the summer. The insects are a vivid green color, but very small, at only one-half inch long and about 1/16 inch wide. Most commonly, the adults will be found on the bark of the trunk of ash trees, or else feeding on the margins of ash leaves.

Each female lays 60-90 eggs on the bark in the short month that they are alive. Upon hatching, the larvae burrow through the bark and begin feeding on the cambium layer of the tree. They wind their way through the cambium as they feed, creating serpentine channels. In late fall, the now inch to 1.5 inch long larvae burrow a small chamber where they overwinter and in which they pupate in the spring.

As there are usually many larvae in each tree, most infested trees usually die within one to three years. Initially, they will show symptoms of crown dieback and often have



excess new branches that emerge from the trunk. If you see dying ash trees and either the beetles or the D-shaped exit holes in the bark, you should contact your local DNR or UW-Extension office immediately.

How do I help stop its spread?

1. Don't move firewood from one part of the country to another. This is a primary way new diseases and insects spread. Only use firewood from within a few miles of where you are burning it.
2. Watch for signs and symptoms of emerald ash borer and report any suspect invasions. To do so, you can contact the UW-Extension office at 715-732-7510, toll-free 1-877-884-4408, or the Peshtigo DNR office at 715-582-5000.



Are There Cougars in Marinette County?

By Chuck Druckrey, Water Resource Specialist



When talk turns to local wildlife, three species often dominate the conversation: deer, wolves, and cougars. Deer are always a hot topic because nobody can agree on whether they are too numerous or on the verge of extinction. Wolves are a popular subject because their range is expanding in the county. Cougars, also known as mountain lions, are interesting because they are very uncommon here.

However, everyone knows someone who knows someone who saw a cougar. The story usually goes that this person reported it to the local DNR but they won't believe them. This has led to many grand conspiracy theories about the DNR secretly stocking cougars in Wisconsin or otherwise covering up existence of a local population. It's interesting that this debate is not unique to Marinette County or even Wisconsin. Check the Internet and you will find that every state in the Midwest has its own cougar controversy. In fact, there are entire websites dedicated to cougars east of the Rocky Mountains. Cougars are definitely a hot topic!

So what of this conspiracy? And are there cougars in Marinette County, or anywhere in Wisconsin? According to the DNR, the existence of cougars in Wisconsin has not been confirmed. The key is the term "confirmed." In Marinette County alone the DNR receives many reports of cougar sightings every year, and contrary to conspiracy theorists, they do investigate many reports. According to DNR wildlife biologist Aaron Buchholz who works out of the Wausaukee office, he investigated at least five cougar sighting cases last year but was not able to confirm, through tracks, hair, or scat that the animal seen was indeed a cougar.

Verification, it turns out is much more difficult than people think. According to DNR wildlife biologist John Huff, most sightings are of a large cat-like animal darting across a road or through a backyard. Other sightings are by deer hunters on stand. Unfortunately, with most sightings there is really nothing to investigate. Hoofed animals like deer leave abundant tracks but cats, coyotes, and wolves rarely leave tracks unless they are in mud or wet snow. A typical sighting of a large cat crossing the road during the summer will leave nothing to investigate.

The most promising candidates for investigation are winter sightings and trail camera pictures. To date, the winter sightings investigated in Marinette County have turned out to be primarily bobcats, wolves, coyotes, or dogs. Cougar tracks of course look very much like bobcat and lynx tracks. The size of a track does not always easily differentiate between species. A large bobcat track can overlap in size with a small cougar. The lynx, which has been documented in Marinette County, leaves tracks that can easily be as large as a cougars. Dog and wolf tracks are also commonly mistaken for cougar but tracks from the dog family show claw marks, which are rarely seen in cat tracks.

With the proliferation of trail cameras for deer scouting one would think that proof would come in the form of a photograph. In fact, the DNR has received several local trail camera photos of suspected cougars. Unfortunately, they have yet to get a good full body photo with the long tale indicative of cougars. For those photos that are not obviously bobcats, the DNR does a field investigation to offer some idea of scale. If the cat in the photo is very near an identifiable object, the distance from the camera and the objects in the photo can be measured. This gives some idea of the size of the cat. Surprisingly, according to Huff some of the photos have indeed turned out to be common domestic cats.

The DNR also catalogs reported cougar sightings in Wisconsin. The sightings are reported in the state's annual Rare Mammal Observations report. The local biologist receiving the report classifies rare mammal observations as "probable," "possible," or "not likely." These are based on the levels of documentation presented by the observer or presence of additional evidence. According to Huff, if the observer gives an accurate description and it cannot be ruled out by other evidence, it will likely end up as a possible sighting. Only probable and possible observations are included in the report. A review of the reports for the past three years includes 13 possible and one probable cougar observation for Marinette County.

In addition to observations, the Wisconsin DNR has been actively looking for evidence of cougars in their annual winter track survey. This survey is conducted by agency staff and volunteers, trained to identify cougar tracks, to estimate furbearer populations. To date, no cougar tracks have been identified during the survey. The State of Michigan also conducts track surveys on thousands of miles of Upper Peninsula roads to determine the population and distribution of wolves and likewise hasn't found cougar tracks.

The DNR isn't the only one looking for cougars in the state. Eric Anderson, a professor from UW-Stevens Point has conducted tracking studies without success. He also plans to place "hair snares," rubbing posts that should attract cougar and collect hair when they rub against them to leave a scent.

In spite of this evidence to the contrary, there have been confirmed cougar sightings in Minnesota and Michigan. The Minnesota DNR has confirmed cougars through photographs and tracks. A radio-collared cougar from South Dakota also traveled more than 500 miles into northern Minnesota. More recently, in Michigan a motorist reported hitting a cougar in southern

COUGARS continued on page 8

Nature's Almanac

September 5



Warblers are well known to us throughout the northland, and on a spring day we may spy twenty species of the singing residents and migrants. With many nesting here or further north, fall again becomes a good time for us to observe these birds.

Species recognized by their song or breeding plumage in the spring now return, but silently. They wear new attire and may look like completely different birds. The birder who claimed to have seen twenty warblers on a May day is now challenged to identify the same twenty.

A few, such as redstarts, ovenbirds, Nashville warblers, and black-and-white warblers, look as they did early in the season, but most have become small greenish yellow birds with little variation. Fortunately, some of them carry white wing bars, eye rings or tail markings that can help us recognize them if the nervous birds hold still long enough.

Passing flocks, called waves, comprise several species, often with chickadees and vireos acting as hosts. Together they feed, fly, and flit among trees, uttering high-pitched notes as they head for their wintering grounds in the Caribbean and Central or South America.

September 15

Showy yellow flowers have been glowing in the fields, meadows, and roadsides for the last month but now, in mid-September, they begin to fade. Before they leave us, let's look at the eight kinds that we commonly see in the northland. Here, as elsewhere, goldenrods are more varied in habitat than we might anticipate.

As expected, most (five kinds) grow in open country. There we find the last to bloom and the tallest (six feet), giant goldenrod, as well as the very leafy and most common, Canada goldenrod. Two-foot-high furry types, the gray and hairy goldenrods grow there, too. A customary resident of the open prairies, stiff goldenrod, with flat oval leaves, grows sporadically in the northland.

Bog, marshes, or wetland edges are homes for two more types: bog goldenrod, with its red stem and grass-leaved goldenrod, which has the thinnest of leaves and flowers in a flat-topped cluster.

A woodland species, zigzag goldenrod, has a crooked stem with its flower head at the base of broad leaves.

September 26

Birds are mostly quiet on late September afternoons, but songs abound in meadows and fields as katydids, grasshoppers, and crickets all sing of love and home. Feeding on plants, most of these insects stay here throughout the year, but territorial field crickets may be found elsewhere too. We often hear chirps as banished males try to establish territories on our lawns and in our garages and basements.

These black one-inch-long crickets sing often during this hectic time in their lives. Like many insects, field crickets are influenced by temperature, chirping faster in warm weather, slower in cool weather. This fact has labeled field crickets living thermometers. This capability is even better seen in tree crickets.

Crickets hold their wings more horizontally than do grasshoppers or katydids, and males vibrate them to produce their chirps. Both males and females have spines on their abdomens called cerci, but only the female has what appears to be a tail. This tube, the ovipositor, is used to place eggs underground, safe from the winter cold. Adult crickets, so lively now, will die in the coming cold fall months.

From, "Backyard Almanac," by Larry Weber
Illustrations by Judy Gibbs



HIT THE TRAIL

Trails in Marinette County



MARINETTE COUNTY FOREST HUNTER/WALKING TRAILS

By Erik Aleson, Marinette County Forestry and Outdoor Recreation

The Marinette County Forest is comprised of approximately 231,000 acres and ranks as the second largest county forest in Wisconsin. Revenues from timber sales off this land average \$1,500,000 per year, which goes directly into the county operating budget. The county forest also supplies about 60,000 cords of wood a year for forest industries, which provide more jobs than any other industry in the county.

The majority of these lands are open for the public to enjoy. Many hunters pursue deer, bear, and grouse here. Motorized recreation enthusiasts take advantage of the miles and miles of snowmobile and ATV trails. Those that like a slower pace glide through winter wonderlands on the ski trails. Anglers fish for trout on the hundreds of miles of unspoiled rushing streams. Numerous tourists and residents drive the rustic roads and visit parks with breathtaking waterfalls. However, the best-kept secret is the non-motorized hunting/walking trails.

The Marinette County Forestry Department and the WI Department of Natural Resources developed the walking trails listed below as part of the County Forest Wildlife Habitat Program. Favorable wildlife habitat is maintained by coordinating wildlife management practices with timber harvesting. The trails & openings are managed periodically to inhibit the growth of woody vegetation and to encourage the natural growth of grassy and herbaceous cover beneficial to wildlife. This system of old logging roads and wildlife openings, closed to vehicular travel, are intended to provide people with a serene area to hike, observe nature & wildlife, and hunt.

- **Peshtigo River Walking Trail:** (8.75 miles) Town of Athelstane; From Hwy 141, take Benson Lake Road to Swede John Road. Enter on Forest Road 1512.
- **Long Slide Falls Walking Trail:** (8.75 miles) Town of Pembine; From Hwy 141, enter at Long Slide Road, Heller Lane, or Thompson Lane East.
- **Lake Mary Walking Trail:** (2.75 miles) Town of Middle Inlet; From Hwy 180, take Forest Road (eventually FR 901).

For more information about our county forests, pick up a Marinette County Map at local sport shops, convenience stores, and restaurants, or call the Marinette County Forestry and Outdoor Recreation Department at 715-732-7525.

Northwoods Journal Online

Would you like to read the *Northwoods Journal* on the Web? Each of the four summer issues are posted monthly on the Marinette County website at:
www.marinettecounty.com/lw_journal_home.htm

We can even send you an E-mail reminder when each new issue is posted. To set it up, contact Aleta at adirienzo@marinettecounty.com.

THE SECRET LIVES OF AQUATIC INSECTS

By Greg "The Egg" Cleereman, County Conservationist

CADDISFLIES

Caddisflies differ from most aquatic species in that they are recognized more for the aquatic form than the adult form. Adult caddisflies look somewhat like moths. They have narrow, segmented antennae and two pairs of hair-covered wings that are held tent-like over the abdomen. Although caddisfly larvae are quite distinctive with caterpillar-like bodies, thread-like abdominal gills, and hooked prolegs at the end of their abdomens, the dominant feature of the caddisfly is the case they build around themselves. Except for the predatory species, caddisflies build protective "cases" for themselves out of their own silk and stones, sand, twigs, bits of leaves, or other natural materials. Most cases are movable and dragged around like snail shell. The insect and case are held in place by the hooked prolegs on the tip of their abdomens. All activities, including molting, take place inside the case.

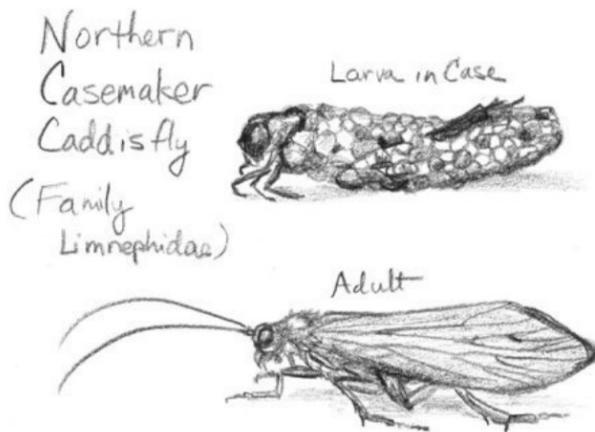
If you see what looks like a small twig or miniature fallen chimney moving across the bottom of a stream, you are looking at a caddisfly. Many species are easy to identify more by their case than by looking at the larvae or adult. Wisconsin is home to about 290 species according to Hilsenhoff's, *Aquatic Insects of Wisconsin*. Caddisflies do not tolerate strong variation in their aquatic habitats and are sensitive to water temperature and dissolved oxygen. In addition, most species have a limited distribution, so drastic alterations in habitat may eliminate them from a given area. Since caddisflies are sensitive to pollution, they serve as an indicator of water quality.

Adults mostly fly only a short distance landing to communicate to the opposite sex by releasing pheromones or by sight and sound. The proper mating signal is highly species specific in caddisflies. For example, some species drum to attract a mate. Others it precedes an attack. Some species spread or flap their wings before attacking; in others this is a warning display. The same thing is true for mating. Some species mate on the wing, others on plants, and others mate on the ground. Despite how they attract a mate, the end result is usually the same.

In Wisconsin, egg laying occurs in spring or summer. In some species a fertile adult female dives to the bottom of the stream, for up to thirty minutes, to cement her eggs to stones or plants. In others, eggs are laid on vegetation overhanging the water. A few species lay eggs by dipping their abdomens into the water while flying upstream to compensate for larval drift downstream.

Newly hatched caddisflies adopt one of three life strategies depending on species. Case builders are omnivores that eat anything, "shredders" that eat plant materials, or grazers that scrape algae off rocks and plants. Some caddisfly species build a permanent retreat that is glued by silk to rocks and vegetation. These are filter feeders that spin a small web to catch bits of organic matter drifting with the current. Some free-living species don't build any case at all. They are filter feeders or predators eating other aquatic insect larvae.

Larval caddisflies generally molt five times. Most species have life spans of one year. They are very active in winter and can often be seen moving under the ice. After feeding through fall, winter, and sometimes spring, the larvae change into an adult, or pupate, inside their cases or in a silk cocoon they spin. While still in their pupal case or cocoon, adults have sharp mouthparts called mandibles to cut their way free. Once they emerge as adults, their mandibles degenerate and become nonfunctional. Their adult life is so short they don't need to eat. They spend what time they do have mating and laying eggs.



Haunted Harmony

Harmony Arboretum
October 27 & 28, 2006
6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Haunted Hardwoods Trail
Children's Corner
Corn Maze
Fall Nature Crafts



Admission: Non-perishable food items for local food pantries or dog/cat food for the Menominee Animal Shelter

Sponsors: Land Information Department, UW-Extension, M & M Jaycees, Menominee Lions Club, Menominee Sons of the American Legion

THE OFFICIAL 2006-2007 MARINETTE COUNTY PLAT BOOK

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Who You Gonna Call?

Spotlighting natural resource and conservation professionals working in Marinette County so you know who to call with questions or concerns.



Justine Hasz

Fisheries Biologist
WI Department of Natural Resources
Peshtigo, WI
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What things do you do as part of your job?

As the fisheries biologist for both Marinette and Oconto Counties, I manage waters within a 2,500 square mile area that includes over 800 lakes and 900 miles of trout waters as well as over 1,000 miles of non-trout streams and rivers. My main job duties include annual fish population surveys in two lakes and more general fish surveys on 11 lakes, 50 streams and three main rivers in the area, as well as four trout stream surveys a year. I write reports on the fishery surveys conducted (located on the DNR website). I also work with other staff members at the Peshtigo DNR office on habitat restoration within both counties. I am responsible for issuing fishing tournament permits and fish stocking permits. A good amount of my time is also spent on general public contacts answering all forms of questions on the area's water resources.

What is the condition of the fisheries in Marinette County?

Marinette County has a very diverse fishery resource. Within the county there are over 600 miles of trout streams and over 400 lakes. The primary lake fisheries within the county are bass and bluegill because of the structure and habitat available in the lakes within this area. However, there are a few lakes/flowages that have the right kind of habitat to provide good walleye and musky fisheries. A vast majority of the streams in the county are home to brook and brown trout that are supported through both natural reproduction and the state's stocking program. Marinette County is also special as it is home to one of the larger remaining lake sturgeon populations in the world. Overall the fisheries of Marinette County are in good condition

What are the DNR's main priorities for fishery management?

There are many priorities for fisheries management, but the number one priority is to protect and enhance our natural resources while providing a healthy sustainable environment and opportunities for all people. Habitat is becoming a key focus not only in the streams but also in the lakes. The fisheries

are impacted as the lakeshores become more developed and habitat is lost. I'm working on educating the public on the importance of habitat for fish as well as working with local lake groups on restoring habitat in lakes where it has been lost. The fisheries surveys that I carry out help identify problem areas, as indicated by the numbers and sizes of fish in a water body, as well as species composition. The information gathered from the surveys helps determine if habitat work, stocking, or regulation changes are needed for each individual water body in order to fulfill our priorities.

Are you working with any local groups on fishery habitat restoration projects?

I spend a lot of time working with local sport groups and lake associations on projects to help enhance individual waters through habitat restoration projects. The most common habitat project in the area is the placement of fish cribs and Christmas tree drops within lakes. Increasingly, we're also working on the addition of woody debris to lake shorelines. The more intensive lake habitat work includes placing large rock reefs along shorelines to help increase natural walleye reproduction. The Peshtigo DNR office houses a stream habitat specialist that works in Marinette

County. The most recent stream restoration project in Marinette County was the replacement of two culverts and the rerouting of Swede John Creek in the Town of Silvercliff. Any group interested in doing habitat work should contact me to determine if it is needed and what type of habitat would be the best option. Almost all habitat work within lakes, streams and rivers would require a permit.

"Justine's Message"

Enjoy the fisheries resources of Marinette County responsibly, know the regulations of the water you are fishing and always carry your fishing license. If you catch a tagged fish and you release it, leave the tag in and write down the number. Report all tagged fish to your local DNR fisheries biologist. If you think you may have caught an exotic species either bring the dead fish or a good picture of the fish to me for identification purposes. Remember some of our waters have a consumption advisory for PCB's and mercury. A complete listing of what is not safe to eat can be obtained from any DNR Service Center. For up to date fisheries information you can visit the DNR website at www.dnr.wi.gov and click on the fishing link.

Where in Marinette County?

Tell us where this picture was taken and you could win a prize!



Send us a note including your name, address, and phone or go to www.marinettecounty.com/lw_home.htm to give us your answer.

Any interesting facts about the subject are also welcome.

Please respond by September 22, 2006

Correct answers will be entered into a drawing to win a Harmony Arboretum tote bag and a birdhouse built and donated by the 6th Graders from Peshtigo Middle School.

Hats off to Diane Smith who told us that this is the Goodman Clubhouse in Goodman, WI. The Goodman Lumber Company built it in 1913, as a clubhouse for their employees. The following excerpt is from "Goodman: The Lumber Company Town that Outlived the Company" written by Randall Rohe for the *Voyageur*, a Northeast Wisconsin historical magazine.

"The club house had an auditorium 42 feet by 62 feet, with a complete theater stage, a spacious club or social room with a large fireplace, a buffet or refreshment room, a locker room with showers and baths, a community kitchen, a movie theater, a rathskeller, a bowling alley, club rooms, and a post office. A dinner and dance that attracted more than six hundred people opened the clubhouse on January 1, 1914. Eventually well-known Big Bands, such as Wayne King, Ben Bering, and Clyde McCoy, played there. In 1914, George Hedquist began showing movies at the clubhouse, with a Saturday afternoon matinee and a regular show in the evening. The clubhouse housed lyceum courses, illustrated lectures, roller-skating, and the junior prom."



Invasive Plants of the Future Project

It's better to prevent an invasion than to try to control plants once they've spread widely. Prevention is easier with many individuals keeping their eyes on our lakes, streams, wetlands, forests and other valued natural areas. In an effort to prevent widespread invasions such as those that have occurred with purple loosestrife and Eurasian water milfoil, the WDNR has partnered with the UW-Madison Herbarium in The Invasive Plants of the Future Project. The web site:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/futureplants/> provides assistance for volunteers who wish to learn more about invasives and report their observations. The web site includes a field guide for identifying certain target plants (including flowering rush), specimen collecting guidelines, reporting forms, and contact information. The target species have been selected because of their potential for invasiveness in Wisconsin. Anyone can become an official Wisconsin Weed Watcher by filling out and submitting a form available on the website. Weed Watchers will be informed of target plant sightings, invasive plant websites & resources, tips for sample collecting, plant eradication and other relevant topics.

Whether visitors to the web site choose to register as a Weed Watcher or not, project organizers hope they will learn about up-and-coming invaders and report any sightings through the channels provided on the web.

Contact: David Eagan
WI Invasive Plants Reporting &
Prevention Project
UW-Madison Herbarium
608-267-7612
InvasivePlants@mailplus.wisc.edu

WEB RESOURCES

Minnesota Sea Grant

www.seagrant.umn.edu/exotics/rush.html

Minnesota DNR

www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/herbaceous/floweringrush.html

Wisconsin DNR

http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/fact/rush_flowering.htm

An Invasive Plant of the Future: Flowering Rush

By Kendra Axness,
UWEX Basin Educator

Exotic species are plants and animals that spread into an ecosystem beyond their normal range. Exotic species can come from another watershed, state, country, or continent. Invasive species are plants and animals that, once established, take over an ecosystem because they are able to out-compete other species for habitat. Both native and exotic species can become invasive if the conditions are favorable for them.

What is flowering rush?

Flowering rush is a tall perennial aquatic plant that can grow as an emergent plant along shorelines and as a submersed plant in lakes and rivers. Its distinguishing characteristic is showy white or pale pink flowers in a large umbel (a flat-topped flower cluster similar to the shape of an upside-down umbrella). In Wisconsin, it is considered an "invasive plant of the future" because it is present in the state in localized populations and is potentially invasive.

Where is it from?

Flowering rush is native to Eurasia.

How far has it spread?

It was first discovered in North America in Quebec in 1897 along the St. Lawrence River. It was found in Michigan in about 1918. By 1955 the plant had spread along the St. Lawrence River and into eastern Ontario. Populations have been observed in a number of states in the northern half of the U.S. including Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Minnesota. In Wisconsin, populations have been observed in Oneida, Oconto, Waupaca, Winnebago, Jefferson, and Columbia counties.

Why is it a concern?

Flowering rush competes with native shoreland vegetation, crowding out native plants which harms fish and wildlife. The plant is a *pioneer* and can easily invade areas that are not occupied by other plants. Drops in water levels may expose new sites for flowering rush. It can form dense stands that may interfere with recreational use. It is currently sold commercially for use in water



gardens. Minnesota considers this plant enough of a threat that it has made it illegal to buy, sell or possess the plant.

How does it spread?

It is most likely dispersed over long distances by people who plant it in gardens. Once established, it spreads locally by seed, rhizomes or root pieces. The rhizomes and root pieces can break off and grow new plants. Boaters can transport flowering rush on their equipment, and flowing water can carry the plant to new areas of a water body. Seeds are long-lived which enhances their ability to disperse, but as reported by the Minnesota Sea Grant, seeds generally appear not to be very fertile. This may explain why flowering rush hasn't spread as rapidly over long distances as purple loosestrife, which does spread by seed.

How can existing populations of flowering rush be controlled?

Since this plant resembles several native shoreline plants when not in flower, accurate identification is important. Plants can be cut below the water surface several times during the summer. They will re-sprout, but eventually will decrease in abundance. Small populations can be hand-dug, but extreme care must be taken to remove all root fragments. When the root system is disturbed, small reproductive structures can break off and spread to other areas. All plant parts should be composted away from aquatic environments. Use of chemical herbicides in all Wisconsin aquatic environments (streams, lakes & wetlands) requires a permit from the DNR. Mechanical harvesting may require a permit as well.

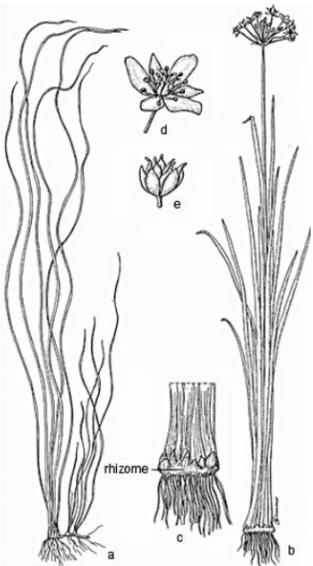


How to Identify Flowering Rush

(*Butomus umbellatus* L.)

This perennial aquatic herbaceous plant is easiest to identify when in flower. Otherwise, it resembles many native shoreland plants, such as the common bulrush.

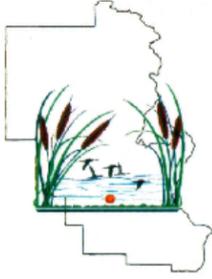
- **Stems:** green and resemble those of bulrushes but are triangular in cross-section.
- **Leaves:** emergent leaves are stiff, sword-shaped, and triangular in cross-section with smooth edges. They can be up to three feet above the water surface. The leaves of submerged plants are limp.
- **Flowers:** arranged in umbels and bloom late summer to early fall. They have three petals that range in color from deep pink to white. Submerged plants do not flower.



Help prevent the spread of flowering rush and other invasive plants

Always check boats and fishing equipment for plant fragments before leaving an area or placing equipment in a new water body. Be aware of potentially invasive plants when looking to purchase plants for gardens and ponds, and purchase native plants when possible. Preserve existing native plants along your shoreline.





Destination.... Marinette County

Miscauno Cedar Swamp State Natural Area

By Chuck Druckrey, Water Resource Specialist

Of the five State Natural Areas in Marinette County, the Miscauno Cedar Swamp may be the least visited. It is after all, a big swamp, and we have no shortage of swamps in the county right? But make no mistake, all cedar swamps are not created equal. While it's not the largest, Miscauno is one of the oldest and least disturbed cedar swamps in the county and supports many distinctive plants and animals that are unique to mature conifer swamps. The swamp also has numerous springs that feed the south branch of Miscauno Creek, a Class I trout stream that flows northeast through the natural area.

Miscauno Swamp was originally purchased by the State of Wisconsin in 1946 when it was widely assumed that all large cedar swamps were important deer yarding areas. However, it soon became apparent that the deer weren't congregating in Miscauno Swamp. Since that time, research has shown that deer yarding is limited to certain northern areas that receive extremely heavy snowfall. Furthermore, the desire to yard up for the winter seems to be unique to those local deer populations.

With the realization that deer weren't yarding in Miscauno Swamp, it was renamed the Miscauno Wildlife Area. Early in its existence the swamp was the site of a 20-year study on cedar stand management and the effect of browsing on cedar regeneration. The study began with prescribed thinning cuts in 1947 and 1957. Several fenced enclosures were also established to exclude deer and snowshoe hare. The study was one of the first serious experiments of its kind and it's still considered one of the most important works on the management of white cedar.

While Miscauno is not a true old-growth forest, it is a prime example of a mature cedar swamp. When purchased in 1947 the cedar stand was even-aged and it had been about 65 years since the swamp was logged. If you do the math, most of the cedars in Miscauno are now almost 125 years old. In the swamp you enter a very dark and very damp world. Under

the closed canopy of cedars mosses, lichens carpet the forest floor. The ground layer is also rich with small orchids and other unique wetland plants. Where large cedars have fallen and created openings young spruce, balsam and woody shrubs sprout and add diversity to the nearly pure stands of cedar. While the swamp is home to deer, bear and the more common furbearers it also provides important habitat for many uncommon songbirds. According to the DNR, the long-eared owl, Swainson's thrush and the Cape May warbler, all species of concern, nest in Miscauno Swamp. It was this unique assemblage of plants and animals that led the DNR to designate the Miscauno Cedar Swamp Natural Area in 1971.

While the natural area contains nearly 400 acres of cedar swamp, it also has about 140 acres of upland forest. The uplands are primarily oak and aspen second growth forest with areas of large mature red and white pine. The upland forest is hilly and slopes steeply down into the swamp.

If you want to explore Miscauno Swamp be sure to bring your boots. During mosquito season long sleeves and a head net are recommended as well. You might also want to bring a compass. As you get deeper in the swamp and lose site of the upland edge, the cedar trees all tend to look alike and it's easy to get turned around. While a hand held GPS is great, they often don't work under the dense canopy of the swamp.

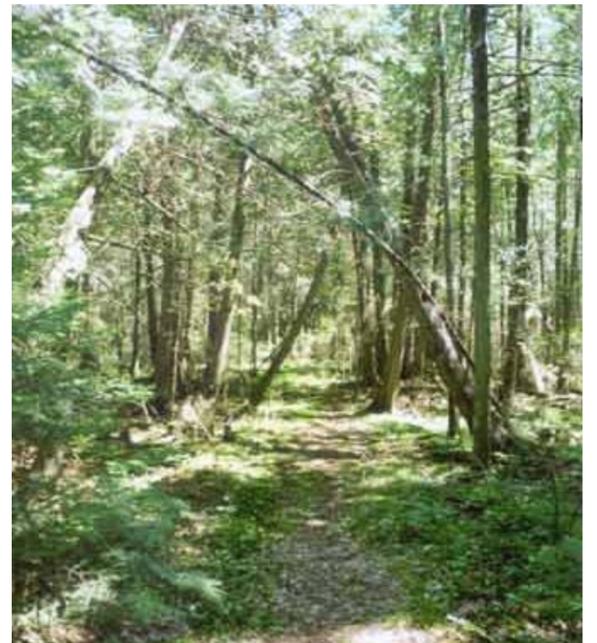
TO GET THERE

Miscauno Cedar Swamp may be the easiest of our State Natural Areas to find. From the intersection of Highway Z and 141 in Beecher, take Highway Z 1.6 miles to Miscauno Lane and go south ¼ mile to the end of the road. You can follow a short trail east into the swamp or just keep going south through the woods.

MANAGING CEDAR IN MARINETTE COUNTY



The studies done in Miscauno Swamp have shaped how foresters manage cedar. Since the 1950's foresters have been concerned about cedar regeneration. In the Miscauno Swamp study it was found that whitetail deer and snowshoe hare together suppressed any new cedar growth that occurred as a result of thinning or harvest. The study also found that spruce and balsam fir are less palatable to deer and tend to replace cedar. Marinette County foresters have experienced the same problem with cedar regeneration in areas with high deer numbers. So what should a landowner do if they want to harvest cedar? According to DNR forester John Blayney, cedar stands that are very dense can be improved considerably by thinning. Thinning cuts release the remaining trees from competition and allow them to grow to a larger size, and the harvested logs can still have considerable value. Thinning also opens the stand and allows for more ground and shrub layer vegetation to improve wildlife habitat. It is recommended that landowners consult with DNR foresters or hire a consulting forester when considering cedar harvest.



Miscauno Cedar Swamp

Landscaping with Native Trees & Shrubs

By Scott Reuss, UWEX Horticulture Agent

White Spruce (*Picea glauca*)

One of our native conifers that fits well into home landscapes is the white spruce. It is adapted to a range of soils, but does best in moist, but well-drained soils with moderate fertility. With some management, it can be placed into basically any landscape in the Marinette County area, provided you have the space for it.



White spruce are tall trees, usually reaching 50 to 70 feet

in landscape settings, but up to 90 feet in denser forests. They have the typical pyramidal conifer shape, with branches that curve upward slightly. In open settings, branches will remain on the entire height of the tree. In more shaded settings, lower branches will self-prune over time.

The needles of white spruce are one-half to three-quarters inch long, with pointed ends and are four-sided in cross-section. They have a strong odor when crushed, and are generally a dark bluish-green at maturity. There are some improved cultivars of white spruce available with more needle color, but most are pretty similar to the standard. A subspecies of white spruce that is shorter and adapted to drier soils and climates is the Black Hills spruce.

The cones are about two inches long and usually fall during the winter after they open and shed their seeds. The bark of white spruce is thin, and separates into light gray-brown scaly plates on mature trees. Thus, the bark can

also add landscape interest on specimens as a which are grown in amongst other trees or which have had their lower branches removed. White spruce trees offer high quality nesting habitat for many bird species, roosting cover for birds and small mammals, and serve windbreak. They have very few disease problems, unlike the non-native Colorado blue spruce, which is very prone to diseases that limit its long-term aesthetic appeal in our area. There are a few insects that affect white spruce, the most serious of which is the spruce budworm. It can cause defoliation of trees and is potentially fatal. Another common insect is the spruce adelgid, which causes cone-like swellings on branch ends.

If you would like help selecting trees for your landscape, you can talk to Scott or Linda at the Marinette County UW-Extension office, third floor of the Marinette County Courthouse 715-732-7510, toll-free 1-877-884-4408, or e-mail scott.reuss@ces.uwex.edu.



Spokes & Folks Bicycle Club

www.spokesandfolks.com



*Guests are welcome, helmets are required.
Lights are recommended on some rides.*

September 2006 Ride Schedule

(See website for more details)

Bailey's Park Ice Cream Social Ride & Meeting

Sept 3 10:00 a.m.

Meet at Cycle Path, 2329 13th Street,
Menominee.

Vern's U.P. Mountain Bike Ride

Sept 9

25+ miles, mostly gravel roads. A wet river crossing may be included. We'll stop for lunch near some secluded waterfalls.

Contact Vern for more info, 715-587-4341.

Grand Island Mountain Bike Weekend Sept 30 – Oct 1 (tentative)

More details to come. Check website.

Sunday Morning Breakfast Rides

May 6 – September 24

Bring your family, bring your appetite. Riders will ride to and from breakfast for a social ride great for all levels.

Wednesday Fast Rides

6:00 p.m. Ending mid September

This is a super fast drop ride. Anyone can join, but if you aren't keeping up, you will be left behind, or dropped.

Marinette County
Harmony Arboretum

gardens: prairie: hardwood forest

½ mile south of Hwy 64, on County E

Extension : 715-732-7510
Land Information Office: 715-732-7780
<http://www.marinettecounty.com>

September 2006

All programs are free unless otherwise stated.

Sept 9 Harvest Fest

9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

This taste-testing morning will help you choose fruit and vegetable varieties for next year. Just stroll around and enjoy the gardens, or take one of the classes on fall planting, extending the growing season and fruit tree care.

Area Events Calendar

- Sept 2 Amberg Fire Department Picnic**
Fireman's Park. Parade 11am, picnic follows. Lawnmower races, horseshoe tournament, raffle, prizes, free roasted corn all day. 715-759-5594
- Sept 9 Harvest Fest**
Harmony Arboretum. 9am – 12:30 pm. See ad on this page for more info.
- Sept 16 Annual Peshtigo River Trail Paddle**
Lower Peshtigo River, starting in Peshtigo. 10am – 2:30pm. See page 1 for more details. Free, but must register to attend.
- Sept 23 Peshtigo Historical Day**
Badger Park. Parade starts at 10am. Live music, craft booths, food, kids' activities. 715-582-0327
- Sept 23 American Legion Post 66 Chili & Soup Fest**
Silver Cliff Park, Co. Hwy C. 11am. 715-757-9311
- Sept 30 Crivitz Harvestfest**
Hosted by the Crivitz Business Association. Call 715-856-3623 for more info.
- Sept 30 Apple Fest**
Pleasant View Orchard, W6050 Chapman Rd, Niagara. 11:30am – 4:30 pm. Horse-drawn hayrides, food, blue grass concert and jam session. 715-856-5815
- Oct 27-28 Haunted Harmony**
Harmony Arboretum. 6 – 10 pm. Halloween Fun for all ages. See add on page 4 for more details.
- Nov 18 St. Mary's Parish Hunter's Dinner**
St. Mary's Church, Crivitz. 4:30 – 7 pm. \$5 and up. All you can eat chicken, polish sausage, sauerkraut, dressing and pie! 715-854-2774
- Nov 18 5th Annual Athelstane Craft Fair & Bake Sale**
Cornerstone Assembly of God Church, corner of Co. A and Co. C. Some of the proceeds go to the Athelstane Fire Department. 715-856-5406
- Dec 2 3rd Annual Vintage/Antique Snowmobile Show & Swap Meet**
Gateway Bar & Grill, Crivitz. 8 am to ? Free admission to spectators. Awards will be given in various categories. Hosted by N.E.W. Low Buck Vintage Riders Snowmobile Club. 715-759-5867. www.newlowbuckvintageiders.com

Wishigan Outdoor Club

Marinette, Wisconsin * Menominee, Michigan

This is a recreational club for those who love the outdoors, enjoy silent sports, and welcome the company of others in outdoor activities. This diverse group includes all kinds - the occasional nature hiker to the hardcore enthusiast.

Some of the club's favorite activities include hiking, camping, backpacking, paddling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Check out some of the trips and activities already scheduled for this month. Guests are welcome.

Visit our website for more information!

www.wishigan.org

COUGARS continued

Menominee County in November 2004. A hair sample taken from the car bumper was sent in for DNA analysis and positively identified as cougar.

So cougars have been confirmed in nearby states and certainly could be in Wisconsin as well. Assuming at least some of the sightings are legitimate, where could cougars come from? According to the DNR there are two sources: escaped or released pets and animals from a wild population. According to Huff, known wild cougars have dispersed far enough to reach Wisconsin so the possibility of confirming a wild cougar is not out of the question. The next logical question is could there be a local breeding population? To this question the DNR is much more confident. According to DNR biologists, a breeding population of cougars in Wisconsin is extremely unlikely. Huff says wolves were being hit by cars, shot by hunters and showing up in photographs when their numbers were still very low. If cougars existed in Wisconsin in numbers needed to support a breeding population, there should be clear-cut evidence.

So are there cougars in Marinette County? The DNR has no evidence of one, but they are looking. Biologists suspect that some day they will find that clear photo, document an indisputable track, or find a dead cougar. Until that time, the cougar will remain the stuff of wildlife legend and undoubtedly, the controversy will remain.

This is the last Northwoods Journal!

Don't panic, we'll be back next June. However, this winter we will be thinking about article ideas for next summer. If you have ideas about subject matter or would like to contribute articles on how to enjoy or protect our county's outdoor life and local history, email gcleereman@marinettecounty.com or drop us a line at:

LWCD – Northwoods Journal, 1926 Hall Avenue, Marinette, WI 54143

