

Northwoods Journal – September 2008

Enjoying and Protecting Marinette County's Outdoor Life

In This Issue:

Emerald Ash Borer	1
Native Shrubs: Chokeberry	2
Resident Reptiles: Snakes Part 2	3
An Isle Royale Experience	4
Environmental Poster Contest	5
Where in Marinette County?	5
Managing Aquatic Invasives	5
Haunted Harmony	6
Kids in Nature: An Endangered Species?	7
Area Events Calendar	8
Harmony Arboretum Calendar	8

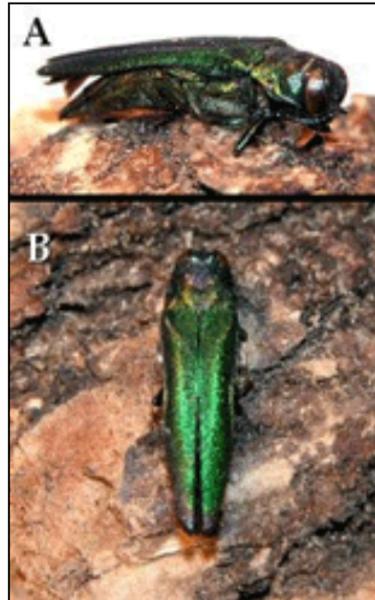
Emerald Ash Borer Comes to Wisconsin

By Andrea Duca, Land Information Department Intern

The Emerald Ash Borer has officially invaded counties of southern Wisconsin. *Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)* was recently discovered in Ozaukee County and a quarantine has been issued for Ozaukee, Washington, Fond du Lac and Sheboygan counties. Residents and affected businesses in these counties are forbidden from moving any hardwood firewood, ash nursery stock, ash logs or timber out of the quarantine area.



As mature larvae complete feeding in the fall they carve a chamber in the outer sapwood where they stay over the winter. Pupation occurs in this same chamber the following spring, thus completing the life cycle. However, not all larvae complete their lifecycle in one year. Scientists have found larvae can require an additional one or two years of feeding prior to adult emergence. These larvae with extended feeding periods are typically observed in healthy or lightly infested ash trees whose defenses are more effective at decreasing larval growth rate and increasing larval mortality.



Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) is a newly discovered invasive and destructive species in Wisconsin. Its native habitat is eastern Russia, northern China, Japan and Korea. North America first encountered Emerald Ash Borer in Michigan in 2002. This beetle primarily inhabits ash trees (*Fraxinus spp.*) and does not distinguish between ash species - all are attacked. Adults are 3/8 - 1/2 inch long. Adults emerge from beneath the bark of ash trees late May through mid-July, **creating a D-shaped hole** as they chew their way out of the tree. Emerald Ash Borer adults have a three to six week life span, dying by mid-August. Adults are most active during the day, favoring warm, sunny weather. They feed along leaf margins, with a preference for foliage in direct sunlight.

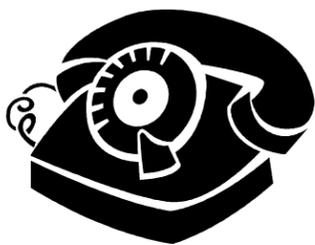
Mating occurs soon after adult emergence, with egg-laying occurring a few days later. Eggs are laid in bark crevices, and after hatching the first developmental stage (*instar*) of larvae chew their way through the cambium between the bark and sapwood. EAB larvae are white to cream colored, slightly flattened, with a pair of brown pincher-like appendages on their last abdominal segment. Size varies as they pass through each of their five instars with mature larvae averaging 1.5 inches in length. They wind back and forth as they feed, creating **characteristic S-shaped grooves**.

State and federal laws forbid moving firewood out of EAB quarantined areas. Currently, this means firewood that has been stored, purchased, harvested, or has in any way moved through the following areas may not be moved out of these areas: Ozaukee, Washington, Fond du Lac, & Sheboygan Counties; also anywhere in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Lower Michigan & Eastern Upper Michigan, and Ontario, Canada.

If such firewood enters a DNR managed property, regardless of whether it is within 50 miles, it will be confiscated. State and federal fines up to \$1,000 apply for violations of firewood quarantines.

The best prevention for EAB is to not move firewood. If you do use firewood camping or traveling, please buy locally and burn locally.

Report possible sightings of EAB by calling 1-800-462-2803



For more information about EAB, visit online at:

<http://www.dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh/ash/>
Emerald Ash Borer Information

<http://www.dnr.wi.gov/Forestry/FH/pdf/EABdistribution.pdf>
Detailed Midwestern EAB Distribution map

<http://www.dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh/pdf/EABlook-alike.pdf>
EAB Look-a-like Poster

<http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/firewood/>
Invasive Species & Firewood

<http://www.dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh/ash/eab-cando.htm>
What Can You Do? Emerald Ash Borer

This is the last issue of the 2008 Northwoods Journal!

Don't panic, we'll be back next June. This winter we will be thinking about article ideas and stories for next summer. And don't forget, the NWJ is online – just go to www.marinettecounty.com and click on the Northwoods Journal link at the bottom of the page. Have a great rest of 2008!

Native Landscape Shrubs: Chokeberry

By Scott Reuss, UW-Extension Agriculture & Horticulture Agent

The black chokeberry, *Aronia melanocarpa*, is a highly adaptable, very hardy shrub. The native type is usually a 3 foot tall, multi-stemmed shrub that spreads outward as it ages. The spreading character means that it can be used well as a bank stabilizing plant, or for erosion control. However, it can potentially spread more than desired. Although this may be an issue, I would not choose against this species just because of its spreading capability, as it very rarely becomes a real problem.

One significant reason it can be such a nice choice in our area is that it can handle a very wide range of soil types. Its native habitat encompasses everything from bogs to dry upland sites. As with any woody plant, newly planted specimens need to be watered consistently so that they can get well-established, but after the first year or two, they should do very well on their own. That said, this species is known as an easily established shrub, making it a good choice for places that make watering and maintenance more difficult.



Chokeberry in flower, photo courtesy University of Connecticut

This species has many positive landscape characteristics that make it a great choice for year-round aesthetic interest. The flower clusters do not last a long time (about a week) but they do have a nice character, especially in contrast to the foliage.

The foliage is one of the stars of this shrub, exhibiting dark green, shiny leaves the entire growing season. And then the fall colors come on strong, with a mix of oranges and burgundies. Its fall colors are rather showy and dependable, especially in sunnier locations.

The fruit clusters are also rather showy, although the individual fruits are fairly small. They are a dark purple-black color that is very persistent, lasting into December. One of the reasons they last so long is that they are not exactly a favorite food for birds and mammals. They will get eaten eventually, but likely only after the other fruiting species in the area have been picked clean. Although not a favorite food source, these fairly dense shrubs form decent nesting habitat for lower-nesting songbird species.

The native shrubs can be propagated fairly easily either by seed, softwood cuttings, or division. There are also 'improved' cultivars available that can be a little different regarding foliage quality, size, or fruiting characteristics. For example, the cultivar 'Viking' gets a little taller, up to 6', and has slightly superior foliage quality.

Informative websites:

- University of Connecticut Plant Database
<http://www.hort.uconn.edu/Plants/a/aromel/aromel1.html>
- University of Wisconsin-Extension Urban Horticulture
<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/wihort/index.htm>
- Wisconsin Master Gardener Program
<http://www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener/>
- American Horticultural Society
<http://www.ahs.org/>
- Garden Web
<http://www.gardenweb.com/>
- Bushes and Shrubs
<http://www.bushesandshrubs.com/>

Peshtigo River Trail Paddle Trip

Saturday, September 13th, 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Come join us on a free guided paddle trip on the Lower Peshtigo River from the City of Peshtigo landing to the County Rd. BB landing. Bring your own canoe/kayak or use one of our canoes. We have a limited supply (6) - you can call to reserve a canoe starting August 27 at 9am. Youth under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Peshtigo River Trail maps are available in the courthouse, the Wisconsin Welcome Center, and the Chamber of Commerce. To register for the trip or for more information, call Land & Water Conservation at 715-732-7780.



Northwoods Journal

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

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- Marinette County Parks & Outdoor Recreation Department
- University of Wisconsin-Extension

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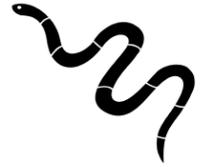
Please send comments to:
Marinette County Land & Water Conservation
1926 Hall Ave, Marinette, WI 54143
(715) 732-7780
awarren@marinettecounty.com





Our Resident Reptiles: Snakes Part Two

By Aleta DiRienzo, Land & Water Conservation Division
Photos courtesy of A.B. Sheldon and WDNR



Last month we discussed five of the 10 snakes that make Marinette County their home, learned about snakes in general and busted some of the myths that surround them. This month we continue our discussion with the five resident snakes that lay eggs: Eastern Hognose, Smooth Green Snake, Western Fox Snake, Eastern Milk Snake, and the Northern Ring-necked Snake.

The **Eastern Hognose Snake** is a medium, heavy bodied snake that can be many different colors. It has a distinct pattern of irregular dark blotches on its back with a background colors ranging from brown to olive; sometimes the blotches are absent, and the snake can be tan, brown, or black. The one distinguishing feature is the turned up nose that gives the snake its name. Most Hognose Snakes have a pair of dark patches on their neck that resemble “eyespot” when the neck is flattened.



This snake can inhabit nearly all types of habitats, but they prefer sandy, well-drained soils. The Hognose tends to be most active in the early morning and evening during the warm summer months. When not hunting for food or basking in the sun, these snakes spend the rest of their time underground or under logs. When intimidated, it will flatten its neck and lift its head up to strike - however, it is not dangerous, and this show of bravery is all bluff.

In June or July the females lay a clutch of 4 to 61 eggs in a shallow burrow of sand or soil. Hatching occurs in late August or September, after an incubation period of 50 to 65 days. Eastern Hognose Snakes are harmless to humans, but their acting gives them the appearance of being dangerous, and many confrontations with humans end up being fatal for the snake. In addition, numerous snakes are killed on roads and by farm and recreational equipment.

The **Smooth Green Snake** is also commonly called the “Grass Snake” because of its color. The bright emerald green color of this snake makes it easy to identify, although buff colored snakes do exist. This snake enjoys moist grassy places such as prairie remnants, meadows, old fields, pastures, roadsides, and lake edges. They are mostly active on the ground, although on occasion they will forage in stumps or low shrubs. They like to bask or hide beneath logs, bark, flat rocks, and human generated debris such as boards, concrete or tar paper.



Green Snakes are active from May to September. In winter they sometimes hibernate communally with other small snake species, using underground shelters such as abandoned rodent burrows. They are active during the daylight hours, though they appear to confine their activities to morning and early evening during hot weather. The Green Snake is also the region’s only predominantly insect eater. Green Snakes usually lay 3 to 13 eggs from late June to early September, and because this snake has a relatively short incubation period (only 4-30 days) most eggs hatch in August or September. Eggs are laid in shallow burrows, rotting wood or plant material and several females may deposit their eggs in the same nest site. This snake is often recognized and tolerated by people who generally fear and persecute other harmless and beneficial snake species. Still, populations are decreasing primarily because of habitat loss to intensive agricultural use and the widespread application of insecticides.

The **Western Fox Snake** is a large, stout bodied snake that has brown or black blotches running down the back and onto the tail. The background color is yellowish brown, grayish brown or tan. This snake prefers prairie, pasture and farmland in the southern part of its range, but in the northern part of its range it will inhabit open woodland and forest-edge habitats. In Northern Wisconsin and Michigan this snake is commonly called a “Pine Snake”.

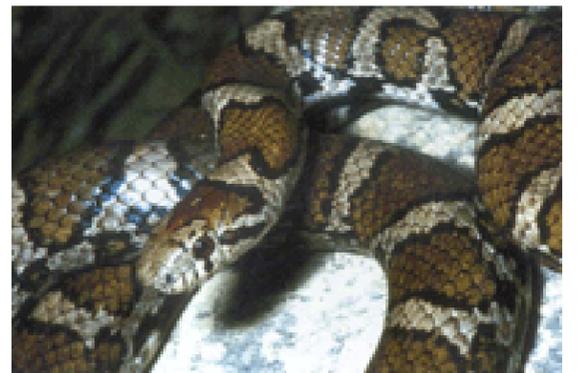


This snake is most active during the day but most of their foraging occurs out of sight in rock or trash piles. They hibernate communally, from late October until mid April in dens that offer refuge from freezing temperatures. Small mammals such as mice, voles, chipmunks, and ground squirrels are this snake’s favorite prey. When threatened they will attempt to escape into the closest cover, and if cornered, they may even strike. They will also vibrate their tail, which sounds just like a rattle when in contact with dry leaves. It also can emit musky-smelling secretions that are said to smell like fox, giving the snake its name.

Females lay 7 to 27 eggs from late June to early July in loose soil, decaying logs, under rocks, boards, or surface litter. Incubation takes 35 to 75 days with most hatchlings emerging between mid-August and early September. Populations of this snake can live in areas largely used in agriculture, and this snake benefits when dense forests are opened up by timber harvesting. This snake’s rodent-eating habits make it a beneficial species to the farmer and gardener. Unfortunately, however, they are frequent victims of cars and many others

are needlessly killed by people who mistake them for copperheads due to the red head, or a rattlesnake because of its tail-vibrating behavior. **Please note that there are neither copperheads nor rattlesnakes in Marinette County.**

The **Eastern Milk Snake** is a slender, medium-sized snake with a dorsal row of brown or reddish brown blotches on a gray or tan background. A key identification trait of this snake is the belly, which is light colored with an irregular checkerboard pattern of rectangular black spots. This snake is found in a wide variety of habitats, from open woodlands, bogs, swamps, lake-shores, old fields, farm yards and gardens. They like to forage around barns, which earned the common name of “Milk Snake”.



This is a secretive snake and likes to be underground much of the time. They are nocturnal, especially during the summer months. Mice, voles, young rats and shrews make up about 70 percent of this snake’s diet, with birds, other snakes, lizards and eggs rounding it out. The Milk Snake prefers to retreat rather than fight. When bothered it may strike, hiss or roll up in a ball hiding its head. Females lay 5 to 24 eggs in late June to early July in rotted stumps, piles of vegetation, or cavities under rocks, bark and boards. Eggs hatch in late August to September after an incubation period of six to nine weeks. Because this snake is secretive, it can adapt to living near humans; however, people often are startled by the snake’s color pattern and kill them on sight. Thankfully, increasing numbers of farmers and homeowners are beginning to recognize the value of these harmless rodent-eating snakes as beneficial and welcome them as neighbors.

The **Northern Ring-necked Snake** is a small, dark, shiny snake with a bright orange or yellow ring around its neck. The body coloration is solid bluish black, gray or brownish gray. Woodlands and edge areas are preferred habitats for this snake, and they usually remain in the leaf litter so are rarely seen in the open. They are mostly nocturnal but a heavy rain during the day may stimulate activity. Unfortunately, since this snake prefers to live and hibernate with others of its own kind, its colonial nature makes it especially vulnerable to habitat disruption.



These snakes feed on smaller animals including

Continued on page 5



Northwoods Journal Online

Would you like to read current issues of the *Northwoods Journal* online? Go to 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 Warren at awarren@marinettecounty.com or call 715-732-7784 for more information.

An Isle Royale National Park Experience

By Anne Warren, Information & Education Specialist

Tucked away in the northwestern part of Lake Superior is 45-mile long Isle Royale National Park, established in 1940 and designated a national wilderness area in 1976. Last month I had the opportunity to spend my vacation on a week-long educator workshop and backpacking excursion sponsored by Michigan Technological University and the Isle Royale Institute. Almost all the other participants were classroom teachers attending for university credits and professional development, and I was fortunate to attend as a “non-formal” educator. The focus of the workshop was the ecology of Isle Royale and included in-the-field presentations on topics such as geology, habitat, wildlife, forest succession and management, the history of human use on the island, and ongoing island research.



“Team Greg”, named for our fearless leader Greg Wright.

While there, we also had the chance to attend a once-in-a-lifetime event: the 50th anniversary of the Isle Royale wolf-moose study, the longest-running predator-prey research study in the world. Several well-known scientists attended, including L. David Mech, biologist and professor at the University of Minnesota; Rolf Peterson and John Vucetich, lead researchers for the Isle Royale study and professors at Michigan Tech University; and Doug Smith, Director of the Yellowstone Wolf Project. Also attending were Adrian Wydeven and Brian Roell, biologists and Wolf Program Coordinators for the Wisconsin and Michigan DNR, respectively.



Biologist Rolf Peterson explaining effects of osteoporosis on resident moose.

The public had the chance to interact with these prominent guests in discussion sessions, and in addition our group had individual presentations geared towards educating our various audiences. Although a national park, Isle Royale is perhaps best known for its unique ongoing research study of predator-prey relationships and how habitat, populations, and human activities can impact a natural ecosystem.

It has long been a goal of mine to go to Isle Royale, and being an environmental educator, I thought this a perfect opportunity to combine my



love of the outdoors with my profession by developing new ideas for the Land & Water Conservation’s *T.O.A.D.* program (Teaching Outdoor Awareness & Discovery). TOAD consists of about thirty mobile, environmental education classes free to the public – topics include wildlife, wetlands, ecology, soils, invasive species, aquatic studies, and groundwater.

My experience at Isle Royale will help me enhance the TOAD curriculum by creating a predator-prey program with a focus on wolves, since they reside in our county. I believe education is the key to understanding, and my hope is to encourage people to better appreciate and understand the ecological importance of predator species, especially wolves, in the north woods of Wisconsin.

I also hope to share my Isle Royale experience with the general public by creating a presentation to share the importance of wilderness areas and the opportunities the park provides. Isle Royale is one of the least visited national parks in the country, yet it has one of the highest rates of repeat visitors. What is it about this wilderness archipelago that keeps people coming back?

Visiting Isle Royale brought to me a peace of mind and relaxation that is almost impossible to grasp in today’s modern society. This experience reminds me that although the modern world surrounds and engulfs us daily, there are still places where we can experience the wonderment, beauty, and solitude that many of us have forgotten in our ever-advancing culture.



“And so we return to our man-made world, shocked by its concrete and cars, but knowing that the island remains – a contrast, a restorer, a measure of our civilization.” - Napier Shelton, *Superior Wilderness – Isle Royale National Park*

For more information about the park or ongoing research there, visit online:

National Park Service
<http://www.nps.gov/isro/>

Isle Royale Institute
<http://iri.mtu.edu/index.htm>

Isle Royale Natural History Association
<http://www.irnha.org/>

50-year Anniversary of the Study
<http://www.wolfmoose.mtu.edu>

Wolf - Moose Research Information
<http://www.isleroyalewolf.org>

International Wolf Center
<http://www.wolf.org>

L. David Mech’s Website
www.davemech.org

Wisconsin DNR Wolf Information
<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/mammals/wolf/>

Related books of interest include:

Superior Wilderness – Isle Royale National Park by Napier Shelton, 1997

The Wolves of Isle Royale – a Broken Balance by Rolf O. Peterson, 2007

Wolves of Minong: Isle Royale's Wild Community by Durward L. Allen, 1979

Island Life – An Isle Royale Nature Guide by Ted Gostomski & Janet Marr, 2007

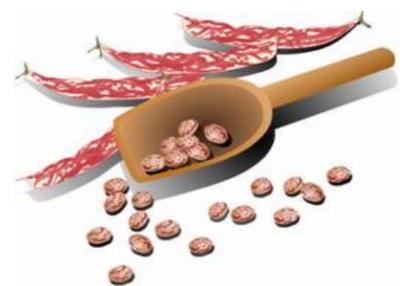
Way of the Wolf by L. David Mech, 1991

Of Wolves and Men by Barry Lopez, 1995

The Timber Wolf in Wisconsin – the Death and Life of a Majestic Predator by Richard P. Thiel, 1993

Chili Night at Harmony Arboretum!

Everyone Loves Chili!



Come out to Harmony Demonstration Gardens on Wednesday, September 10th, 6-8 p.m., and learn about all the wonderful vegetables that go into making chili. Then taste the many styles of chili in a chili cook-off. There will be mini-seminars, demonstrations, tours of the gardens and door prizes. Scott Reuss, Marinette County UW-Extension Agriculture/Horticulture Agent will lead the plant management seminars. Talking about food safety and nutrition will be Nancy Crevier, UW-Extension Family Living Educator, Kay Rich and Sarah Ferdon, Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program Educators. Suggested donation is \$5 per person for materials and refreshments. Harmony Demonstration Gardens are part of the Harmony Arboretum just south of Hwy 64 on County E.



2008 Environmental Awareness Poster Contest!

Each fall, the Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Division and the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) sponsor the Environmental Poster Contest for school-aged children in Wisconsin. Poster participants are encouraged to use the theme "Water is Life". This theme helps us to remember that the earth's water is in constant motion through the water cycle, and because of this we need to become aware of water quality and quantity in our community. Everyone relies on water and other natural resources to exist, and what we do on the land impacts the quality and quantity of water and other natural resources.



First place winners of the county contest will be entered in the Lake Michigan Area Land & Water Conservation Association Area Contest in October 2008. First place winners in the area contest are entered in the WLWCA Contest in November 2008. The first place winners of the state contest will be entered in the National Association of Conservation Districts contest. Prizes will be awarded to the first three places in each division in the contest at the county, area and state level.

Contest Divisions are as follows:

- Primary - Students in Grades K-1 during the school year
- Elementary - Students in Grades 2-3 during the school year
- Middle - Students in Grades 4-6 during the school year
- Junior - Students in Grades 7-9 during the school year
- Senior - Students in Grades 10-12 during the school year
- Special Needs Junior - (K-6) Students enrolled in ED, LD, CD*
- Special Needs Senior - (7-12) Students enrolled in ED, LD, CD*

*Students enrolled in ED, LD, CD may enter in either their grade level or one of the Special Needs Divisions.

Posters must be sent to the Land Information Department by Monday, October 6, 2008, to 1926 Hall Avenue, Marinette WI 54143-1717. **An entry blank MUST be attached to the back of the poster or it will be disqualified.** For a copy of the rules and an entry blank, please call Aleta DiRienzo in the Marinette County Land Information Office at (715) 732-7780.

MANAGING THE THREAT OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES: THE CLEAN BOATS, CLEAN WATERS PROGRAM

By Chuck Druckrey, Water Resources Specialist, and Andrea Duca

Marinette County has more than 400 lakes and flowages and 1,200 miles of streams. These lakes and streams are vital to our tourism economy, which brings in more than \$113,000,000 annually. Unfortunately the spread of aquatic invasive species threatens this important natural resource. *Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are non-native species whose introduction into aquatic ecosystems causes economic, recreational, and environmental harm.* Some of the most troublesome AIS in Marinette County are: Eurasian water milfoil, zebra mussels, and rusty crayfish.



Currently 30 lakes and streams in the county are known to harbor aquatic invasive species. 18 bodies of water host Eurasian water milfoil, 10 are infested with rusty crayfish, four with zebra mussels, two with Chinese mystery snail, and two with curly leaf pondweed. Certainly many others contain AIS but have not been identified. To assist with the AIS problem, the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network offers two programs to help the average citizen looking to stop the spread of these invaders: the "Clean Boats, Clean Waters" Volunteer Watercraft Inspection Program and the Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring Program.

Continued next page

Where in Marinette County?

Tell us where this is and you could win a prize!

Please note that this year's "Where in Marinette County" contest photos are of a more historical nature, so be sure to take a close look at the photo subject!

To enter, send a note including your name, address, and phone number or email awarren@marinettecounty.com to give us your answer. Any interesting facts about the subject are also welcome. Correct answers will be entered in a drawing for a \$20 gift card from Shopko. **Please respond by September 26, 2008.**



Unfortunately, no one guessed last issue's picture of the Amberg granite quarry below! *This issue's winner will be posted in the 2009 June issue.* Thanks to everyone sending in guesses and good luck with this month's photo!



Resident Reptiles, continued from page 3

other snakes, lizards, frogs, salamanders, earthworms and slugs. This snake will rarely bite when handled, but may wriggle about and emit a foul-smelling musky substance.

Females lay from 1 to 10 eggs in late June or early July, and may nest in rodent burrows, beneath rocks, or within a rotted log. Several females may share a favored nesting spot, sometimes even using it for several seasons. Eggs incubate for four to nine weeks and hatch in mid August to early September.

Snakes, although a much-maligned and misunderstood group, are very important in the natural world. It is our hope that by learning more about the snakes of Marinette County, our readers have a newfound tolerance for these creatures and can better appreciate the need for them in nature, both as predators and prey.

For more information about snakes, go online to <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/herps/snakes/> (DNR) or <http://www.madison.com/communities/whs/> (Wisconsin Herpetological Society). You can also refer to the books used to provide information for this article: [Amphibians and Reptiles of the Great Lakes Region](#) by James H. Harding; the WDNR publication [Snakes of Wisconsin](#) by Rebecca Christoffel, Robert Hay and Lisa Ramirez; and [Snakes in Question](#), the Smithsonian Answer Book by Carl H. Ernst and George R. Zug.



3rd Annual Haunted Harmony 2008 - A Scary Good Time



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24TH & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26TH 6:30 - 10:00 P.M. BOTH NIGHTS

Be Afraid . . . Be Very Afraid! Come and join us for a guided ½ mile hike through the Harmony forest. You'll learn about the Haunted Hardwoods and the legend of Hatchet Hank....

Hatchet Hank roams these woods on cool autumn evenings when the moon is full, and helps the forest take back what once was its own. Never stray from the trail in these woods, for Hatchet Hank haunts the forest with other ghostly creatures that only come out at night, in search of unwary travelers....



This event takes place at Harmony Arboretum, located a ½ mile south on County Road E off of Hwy 64, 7 miles west of Marinette. There will be a kids' area located at the pavilion with games, pumpkin carving, music, and crafts. Concessions will also be available, as well as a warm fire to sit by. Your evening adventure begins with a brief walk to the trailhead in the Haunted Hardwoods, where your hike guides will tell the legend of Hatchet Hank....

The trail will be marked with lighted Jack-O-Lanterns to help you find your way...or not! Just make sure to stay on the trail, or else you may find yourself face-to-face with Hatchet Hank! At the end of the hike a wagon will take you back to the pavilion area.



In lieu of an admission fee, we accept non-perishable food items and items for the Menominee Animal Shelter. Any monetary donations received will be used for Haunted Harmony 2009. The trail can be rough in areas, so please wear a good pair of walking shoes or hiking boots. Also dress for the weather, because unless it is a hard rain, Haunted Harmony will go on as scheduled. Sponsors include Northern Lights Master Gardeners, Menominee Sons of the American Legion, and the Marinette County Land Information and UW-Extension Departments.

For more information please contact:
Aleta DiRienzo (715) 732-7780
Debbie Weiland (715) 732-7545
Nancy Servais (715) 732-7514

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HAUNTED HARMONY 2008!



"Haunted Harmony" is a family-friendly Halloween-themed event sponsored by county employees, local volunteers and businesses. Its success is solely dependent upon donations and community involvement, and we are looking for volunteers to help out for this year. Haunted Harmony will be held October 24-25th from 6:30-10:00 p.m. each night.

A variety of opportunities are available for volunteers. Leading trail hikes, helping at the kids' area, driving tractors, hosting scare stations, and taking admission are some of the volunteer duties available.

"Scare Stations" are the spooky areas along the hiking trail that make this event so exciting! Individuals, families, and groups are welcome to participate, and the more scare stations we have, the better. If you love scaring people, and want to participate in a fun Halloween activity, this event is for you.

This is especially a great opportunity for students, scout groups, youth groups, and others looking for interesting ways to fulfill volunteer or community service hours.

Haunted Harmony is an exciting and beneficial event for the whole community - admission is non-perishable food items for local food pantries or items for the Menominee Animal Shelter.

To volunteer or for more information, please call one of the contact people at left, or email Aleta at adirienzo@marinettecounty.com.

Clean Boats, Clean Waters continued

"Clean Boats, Clean Waters" offers the opportunity for volunteers to perform watercraft inspection and takes a front line defense against the spread of aquatic invasive species. Volunteers are trained to organize and conduct a boater education program in their community and educate boaters on how and where invasive species are most likely to "hitch a ride" into water bodies. Volunteers also perform boat and trailer checks for invasive species, distribute informational brochures, and report any new AIS infestations. Currently four local lakes are involved in this program: Glen Lake, Little & Big Newton Lakes, and Beecher Lake.

For lakes at risk for AIS infestations the Wisconsin DNR offers aquatic invasive species monitoring and education funds to share in the cost of boat landing inspections and AIS monitoring. These grant programs promote the proactive lake and stream management to prevent future AIS infestations and deal with new infestations quickly when they are discovered. For lakes that already have aquatic invasive species present, the DNR also has grant programs to prepare response plans and aid with AIS control. For lakes with new infestations, the DNR offers rapid response grants to manage and/or eradicate the invaders. AIS control grants are available to assist with management planning and, in some cases, the control of invasive species.

As with most lake management funding, the DNR requires that a lake association or district meet certain conditions regarding membership and dues. People of the Lakes: a Guide for Wisconsin Lake Organizations is a great resource for anyone looking to start a lake association. It can be found at the UW Extension Lakes Partnership website (first link below). To date, the Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Division (LWCD) has worked with local lake associations to obtain five AIS grants, as well as numerous other lake management planning grants.

In addition to our efforts to assist individual lakes deal with AIS invasions, the LWCD has applied for a state grant to hire a local Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator. If approved, the AIS Coordinator will focus on AIS projects, dedicate more time to prevention, and reduce the need for management and control efforts. Priorities of this position include working with volunteers to monitor Marinette County lakes for AIS and expand the Clean Boats Clean Waters program to some of our larger lakes such as Cauldron Falls' Flowage, High Falls' Flowage, and Lake Noquebay. These lakes are already infested with exotic species and serve as a source for new aquatic species invasions. For more information about the CBCW program or lake monitoring, visit these sites online:

Wisconsin Lakes Partnership: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/faq/starting-la.htm>

Clean Boats, Clean Waters Homepage: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/cbcw/>

Citizen Lake Monitoring Network Homepage: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/clmn/>

Wisconsin Association of Lakes: <http://www.wisconsinlakes.org>



Kids in Nature: An Endangered Species?

By Andrea Duca, Land Information Department Intern

“Teaching children about the natural world should be treated as one of the most important events in their lives.” - Thomas Berry

Think of all the outdoor games you played as a child. Did you lie in the grass and watch the clouds roll by? Climb trees and look into birds' nests? Plant a seed and watch it grow? Run around on summer nights collecting lightning bugs? Pick a bouquet of wildflowers for your mother? Whistle into a blade of grass? Walk in the woods eating ripe blueberries? Did you build stick forts or tree houses? Imagine living in an urban neighborhood where ordinances prevent children from building forts and tree houses. Such is the reality for many American children today.

Not only has there been a shift starting earlier in the 20th century from rural to urban life, the pace of life has increased tremendously. With an increase in speed of our own lives, we also drag our children along with us. Unfortunately, many outdoor activities are over-structured for some children and they don't get to experience unstructured exploration in nature. Richard Louv, author of Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder (2005), says, “If we are going to save environmentalism and the environment, we must also save an endangered indicator species: the child in nature.”



Recent legislation on the United State's education system has both helped and hurt American children. The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act requires states to test basic skills in certain grades, if those states are to receive federal funding for schools. The effectiveness and desirability of NCLB's measures are, however, hotly debated. It has helped to raise the education standard and let more children learn at a higher level, but it has hurt less “core” subjects by either cutting them or so severely limiting the funding that those programs are no longer viable. A primary criticism asserts that NCLB could reduce effective instruction and student learning because it may cause states to lower achievement goals and motivate teachers to “teach to the test.”

Supporters claim that systematic testing provides data that sheds light on which schools are not teaching basic skills effectively, allowing interventions to improve the outcome for all students while reducing the achievement gap for disadvantaged and disabled students. One unintentional consequence of the law's testing requirements has been many schools' abandonment of environmental education programs, investing more time and resources in math and reading instruction.

Fortunately, there is growing movement to help counteract this problem: No Child Left Inside (NCLI). The NCLI Act stems from the cutting or lessening of environmental education programs in school due to the test-oriented NCLB Act, and is environmental education's answer to NCLB's effects. Fortunately for youth in Wisconsin, the Department of Public Instruction does have environmental education benchmark standards.

Richard Louv outlines one opinion of the widespread problem of children becoming dissociated from nature sweeping through American children today in Last Child in the Woods. “Nature Deficit Disorder” is Louv's take on the well-known Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Nature Deficit Disorder is not an actual medical condition, but more a product of societal issues, and the term puts a name to this serious problem. It describes a frightening trend where today's youth are less and less exposed to nature, resulting in little to no knowledge of the things in their own backyards. It seems as Americans become more urbanized and our technologies advance, our attitude toward animals & nature tend to change in paradoxical ways.

“Man's heart, away from nature, becomes hard; [the Lakota] knew that lack of respect for growing, living things soon led to lack of respect for humans too.” - Luther Standing Bear (c. 1868 – 1939)

Results of some studies suggest nature may be a useful therapy for children with ADHD. They generally have symptoms such as restlessness and trouble with focusing, listening and following directions, and may also be aggressive, antisocial, or may suffer from academic failure. Studies show



Left: Crivitz day care youth get hands-on education about Wisconsin mammals



Right: Youth catching aquatic critters for the Peshtigo Library summer reading program

that after some amount of “nature-time” children suffering from ADHD exhibit decreased symptoms. Even across rural to highly urbanized areas symptoms decrease in children who are frequently exposed to natural areas. A natural area can be anyplace that is not highly controlled or planned by humans, but remains mostly unaltered – an empty field, a riverside park, or even a backyard.

A study published in the American Journal of Public Health states ADHD symptoms decreased following activities in relatively green settings. Moreover, the aftereffects of activities taking place in green outdoor settings were better than those of activities taking place indoors, and the greener a child's typical play settings, the less severe his or her general symptoms. Conclusions in the study suggest “doses of green time” might supplement medications and behavioral approaches to managing ADHD. These doses may take a variety of forms: choosing a greener route for the walk to school, doing class work or homework at a window with a relatively green view or sitting in the lawn at home, or playing in a lush green yard or ball field at recess and after school.

Nature, nature-play and unstructured playtime are essential to a child's creativity and early learning. Nature Deficit Disorder can be lessened with an increase in environmental education. Especially early on, environmental education is fundamental for children to understand what is in their backyard. Many children learn about the Amazon Rainforest in school, and the ecosystems there, but cannot name the trees in the forest behind their home. Do they know the wide variety of animals inhabiting our forests? Can they name endangered species in our area? Local environmental education is sometimes put by the wayside and left for “more exciting” topics like the Amazon Rainforest or Sahara Desert ecosystems. For small children, it's hard enough to conceptualize a far-away place, much less the entire ecosystem.

*“What is the extinction of a condor to a child who has never seen a wren?”
- Naturalist, Robert Michael Pyle*

Starting in the backyard identifying native species and understanding how our animals and plants work together is easier mainly because things in a child's backyard are more tangible. Smaller children can go outside and grab a grasshopper or toad or frog or butterfly. The weight of helping our children know their backyards does not lie solely on our educators, but on parents and family members as well. If parents display a lack of care for nature, children will most likely follow that example. However, if parents can name the plants and animals in their back yard, they are creating tomorrow's steward of nature.

Nature Deficit Disorder can be easily ‘cured’: get kids outside and let them play! In Marinette County we have hiking trails, rivers, lakes and streams along with state and county forestland to explore in many different ways. Grab a backpack and some field guides from your local library, pack a lunch, and head out for some hiking or canoeing. If hiking isn't for your family, pack up your bicycles and go for a ride to a stream and try to identify plants and animals you don't know. Simply getting children outside and away from video games and the television will introduce them to nature. Don't be afraid to let them get their hands dirty! Sometimes, the best way to learn is by doing.

Getting Involved

More often than not, people wish to become more involved and promote environmental education, but do not know where to start or who to contact. Marinette County's Land & Water Conservation Department's *T.O.A.D* (Teaching Outdoor Awareness & Discovery) program provides environmental and conservation topics in the classroom and extends classroom learning into the outdoors. Some key areas addressed are water quality, soils, groundwater, fish and wildlife habitat, nature identification, and wetlands. Nearly 30 different programs are available for pre-K through 12th grade and are free to Marinette County residents. All interested groups are welcome to utilize TOAD: some who have used TOAD include schools, 4H & scout groups, church groups, and outdoor enthusiast clubs. For more information about TOAD opportunities, contact Information and Education Specialist Anne Warren at awarren@marinettecounty.com, or call (715) 732-7784.

Continued next page



Area Events Calendar

- Sept. 10** **Chili Night & Plant Sale at Harmony Arboretum.** See the Arboretum calendar at right and page 4 for details.
- Sept. 13** **Annual Peshtigo River Tour.** 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. See page 2 for more details.
- Sept. 13** **YMCA Annual Fall Fun Triathlon,** 8:00 a.m. at UW-YMCA. 3 mile run/15 mile bike/1/4 mile swim. For more information call 863-9983.
- Sept. 18** **Annual Spaghetti Supper & Raffle,** 3:30-6:00 pm, corner of 10th Street and Elizabeth Avenue, Marinette. Sponsored by the Women's Guild of Peace United Church of Christ, Full salad bar, desserts & beverage. Adults/\$6, children under 12/\$2. Carry out 50 cents extra. Bake/raffle sale. Raffle drawing at 6pm, do not need to be present. Call 735-7642 or ask church members for more information.
- Sept. 20** **Peshtigo Historical Day,** at Badger Park sponsored by the Peshtigo Chamber. Fire tower walk/run at 8am with registration from 6:30-7:45am at Peshtigo Football Field. Parade 10am, downtown Peshtigo. Music, horseshoe throwing tournament, food, refreshments, children/teen games, arts & craft booths. Punt, Pass & Kick competition 3pm at Peshtigo Football Field and soccer game at 4:30pm culminating with fireworks.
- Sept. 20** **Shindig in the Pines,** 1:00-10:00 p.m. at Pine Acres Resort near Crivitz. First annual bluegrass festival featuring four Midwest bands, workshops, and great food & beverages. Workshops 2-5pm, performances 6-10pm. \$15 advance tickets, \$20 at gate. Children under 12 free with parent. For more information, call 715-757-2379 or visit online www.fishingboatingoutdoor.com.
- Sept. 20** **Crop Walk for World Hunger,** 10:00a.m.-12:00p.m. Walk will begin and end at Pioneer Presbyterian Church, 1947 Riverside Avenue in Marinette. The walk/run is a 5 or 10k walk. Call 735-6323 for more information and pledge sheets.
- Sept. 27** **Lawn Care: Fall Care for your Lawn,** 10:00 a.m.-noon. See the Arboretum calendar at right for more details.
- Sept. 27-28** **1st Annual Near North Fall Sports Show.** Marinette County Fairgrounds in Wausaukee, Sept. 27, 10am-6pm and Sept. 28, 10am-4pm. Exhibits and activities relating to Fall and Winter recreation in Northeast Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. Admission and parking free. Fairgrounds located off of Hwy 141 in Wausaukee. For more information, call 715-757-2379 or visit online www.fishingboatingoutdoor.com.
- Oct. 24-25** **Haunted Harmony,** 6:30-10:00 p.m. both nights. See page 6 for more information.

Harmony Arboretum Schedule of Events

7 miles west of Marinette, 1/2 mile south of State Highway 64 on County E. All programs are free unless otherwise stated.

Wednesday, September 10th: Chili Night & Fall Plant Sale, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Part fundraiser for the Demonstration Gardens and part seminar on how to produce all the wonderful vegetables that go into chili-making, this event is sure to please all who participate! Events will include a chili cook-off, mini-seminars, demonstrations, and other exciting opportunities. In addition, browse the selection of fall perennials at the plant sale. Call UW-Extension at (715) 732-7510 for more information.

Saturday, September 27th: Lawn Care: Fall, 10:00a.m.-12:00 p.m.

In this final lawn care session we will discuss and demonstrate different tips and techniques to help your lawn stay healthy going into winter to allow better winter survival and ensure a great start next year.

Friday & Saturday, October 24 & 25: Haunted Harmony, 6:30-10:00 p.m.

A family Halloween event with admission donations going to local food pantries and the Menominee Animal Shelter. See page 6 for details, contact information, etc.



Kids in Nature, continued

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provides educators with **EEK!** (Environmental Education for Kids). The EEK! program offers many different education opportunities. EEK! offers a wide variety of activity ideas for parents and educators, and also offers an electronic magazine to youth in grades 4-8. One page is specifically dedicated to rainy day activities geared toward environmental education, and another showcases career opportunities in environmental sciences such as a Hydrogeologist, Herpetologist, a Naturalist, a Wildlife Biologist, a Forester, Fisheries Biologist, a Chemical Engineer and many more. For more information, visit the EEK! pages online at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/eeek/> or contact the Peshtigo DNR office at (715) 582-5000.



Did you know your child's school probably has a school forest? The DNR's **LEAF** program (Learning Experiences and Activities in Forestry) has a school forest program in which a full-time School Forest Education Specialist is available to help you effectively utilize your school forest. School Forest Education Specialist's services provided include:

- Guidance and consultation in developing school forest education plans and curriculum
- Connection to forest management resources
- Networking and information via electronic newsletter and website
- Professional development opportunities for administrators, educators, and natural resource managers
- Information about funding sources and education resources



Other services in the LEAF program include environmental education for children, youth and adults. Some classes are offered at the graduate level. They also offer classroom forestry education for grade K-12. LEAF offers free, 2-4 hour non-credit in-services for your school or district. These highly engaging in-services introduce the LEAF program, materials, and related services to members of your school or district. If you would like to arrange either, please contact them at leaf@uwsp.edu, or (715) 346-4956 or (715) 582-5000 for the Peshtigo DNR office.

Links of Interest

No Child Left Inside Act of 2007
http://www.cbf.org/site/DocServer/No_Child_Left_Inside_Act.pdf?docID=9503

Children & Nature Network
<http://www.childrenandnature.org>

Richard Louv's website
<http://richardlouv.com>

Wisconsin Academic Standards for Environmental Education
<http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/standards/pdf/envired.pdf>

Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education
www.uwsp.edu/waee

Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education
www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee

Wisconsin Environmental Education Board
www.uwsp.edu/weeb

Wisconsin Forest Resources Education Alliance
www.wfrea.org

North American Association for Environmental Education
<http://www.naaee.org>

Earth Partnership for Schools
http://uwarboretum.org/eps/earth_partnership_index.htm

National Wildlife Federation - Schoolyard Habitats Program
www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/programoverview.cfm

