

Northwoods Journal – September 2017

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

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Wisconsin's Black Bears

From the April 2017 edition of Wisconsin Counties magazine



Wisconsin is home to a thriving black bear population estimated at more than 28,000 bears. The black bear's primary range is located in the far northern third of the state. Due to a growing population, bears are becoming more common in the lower two-thirds of the state than ever before.

Wisconsin's bear population is managed primarily through hunting by offering hunters a quality experience while being managed under a strict quota/permit issuance system designed to ensure the long-term future of the bear population. More than 109,000 hunters applied for 11,520 permits in 2016, making the wait to receive a harvest permit approximately 1 to 9 years, depending on the bear management zone. However, when one finally receives a permit, the opportunity to harvest a bear is better than 40% for most zones and some of the biggest bears in the country are taken in Wisconsin.

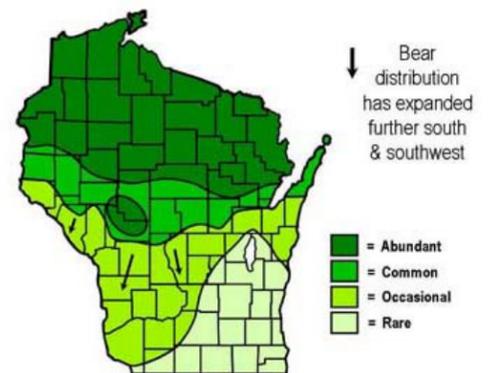
Several bears registered by hunters each year top 600 or 700 pounds. Wildlife biologists in Wisconsin conducted research that provided better information about bear numbers in the state, which helps develop guidelines that will ensure a prosperous future for the species. This research was highly dependent on the help of volunteers, who placed thousands of baits throughout the north each year. The bait was laced with a dye that settled in a bear's bones once eaten.

If a bear that had eaten the bait was harvested during the hunting season, a small piece of rib bone was extracted and examined for the dye. This "marked/recapture" study utilized each marked bear to determine an estimate of just how many were living in the wilds of our state.



Wisconsin's occupied bear range is expanding, which means residents can expect to see black bears in areas outside of the bear's traditional range. An abundant population and suitable bear habitat have facilitated the southerly movement of occupied bear range in Wisconsin. Wisconsin's black bear population is considerably higher than it was 30 years ago. Wisconsin's bear population was estimated to be about 9,000 bears in 1989. The most recent data indicates the bear population is currently estimated to be fewer than 29,000 bears.

Wisconsin Black Bear Distribution



DNR manages bear population size through regulated hunting. The number of hunting permits has steadily increased following studies showing higher numbers of bears. In the near future, opportunities will be provided to the public to comment on desired numbers of bears in each of the state's bear management regions as the DNR prepares a new bear management plan.

Wisconsin is not alone in its expanding bear range. The results from a 2008 survey of eastern United States and Canadian Provinces that actively manage black bear populations indicated that 75% of these jurisdictions report an increase in bear range. Only Vermont reported a contracting bear range.

For more information about Wisconsin's black bears, visit the Wisconsin DNR website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/>. Here are some other sources of black bear information:

-  <https://www.nwf.org/Wildlife/Wildlife-Library/Mammals/Black-Bear.aspx> - National Wildlife Federation
-  <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/a/american-black-bear/> - National Geographic
-  <http://www.bbcc.org> – Black Bear Conservation Coalition
-  <https://www.bear.org/website/> - North American Bear Center



Astronomy Night at the Harmony Arboretum



Have you ever wanted to know more about the night sky? Anne Bartels of the Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Division will give a free stargazing tour of the early fall night sky and share general astronomy information from 7:30-8:45 p.m. on Wednesday, September 13, at the Harmony Arboretum, located 7 miles west of Marinette & ½ mile south of State Highway 64 on County Road E.

Learn about constellations, look for satellites and meteors, and enjoy an evening under the stars! Viewing equipment will be available but please feel free to bring your own. Dress for the weather. If raining or mostly overcast/cloudy, event will be cancelled. Hot beverages will be provided. For more information, call 715-732-7784.

Every Child Deserves to See the Stars: Five Ways to 'Make It So'

From www.childrenandnature.org, with excerpts from "Vitamin N: the Essential Guide to a Nature-Rich Life" by Richard Louv



Starlight is a good source of 'Vitamin N' (nature). A few years ago, Madhu Narayan, a Girl Scout leader in San Diego, told me a story about a girl who saw the universe. "In my first counseling job, with another organization, I took children with AIDS to the mountains who had never been out of their urban neighborhoods. One night, a nine-year-old woke me up. She had to go to the bathroom," said Narayan, as I quoted her in [The Nature Principle](#).

"We stepped outside the tent and she looked up. She gasped and grabbed my leg. She had never seen the stars before. That night, I saw the power of nature on a child. She was a changed person. From that moment on, she saw everything, even the camouflaged lizard that everyone else skipped by. She used her senses. She was awake."



Madhu's story illustrates two issues. One is how important seeing the stars can be to a child's perception of her or his personal universe, as well as the one beyond the Earth. The other issue is that such an experience is increasingly rare. In the journal *Environmental Health Perspectives* researcher Ron Chepesiuk reports, "When a 1994 earthquake knocked out the power in Los Angeles, many anxious residents called local emergency centers to report seeing a strange 'giant, silvery cloud' in the dark sky. What they were really seeing — for the first time — was the Milky Way, long obliterated by the urban sky glow."

These days, for children and adults, sky blindness is common. Sure, we can download one of those stargazing apps and point our smartphones at the sky to "see" what's up there. But somehow that's not the same experience. Apps aside, **two-thirds of the U.S. population and more than one-half of the European population may have already lost the ability to see the Milky Way with the naked eye.** When air pollution and urban domes of artificial light obscure our view of the night sky, our mental and physical health pay a price. Stars or no stars, natural darkness has value; our biological clock needs it.

Researchers in Israel have linked the amount of artificial night-time light to higher rates of breast cancer. Although some cities now require low-pressure sodium streetlights and other light pollution controls, regulation alone won't cure sky blindness, in daytime or night. What we need most is a perception of value.

Ultimately, our relation to the sky is not only about health (and we do need more research on that front), but also about wonder. Trevor Hancock, a professor at the University of Victoria's School of Public Health and Social Policy, asks this question: "If we can't see the stars, how will we know our place in the universe?"

As part of the new nature movement, schools, service organizations, astronomy clubs, camps, Scouts, places of worship, family nature clubs, and other organizations should create more programs like one Madhu Narayan worked with - programs that focus on the kids who don't have the resources or the access for stargazing, particularly those who live in urban neighborhoods where seeing stars is a rare experience.



Every child deserves to know the stars, to have the kind of memory that Rosanna Nydia Snyder, of Seattle, Washington, shared with me last year, which I then shared in *Vitamin N*: "Last night, right before bedtime," she wrote, "my four-year-old daughter wanted to invite us to a 'perfect party' that she was adamantly planning for right that very moment. Not tomorrow, but 'tonight.' This 'perfect party' involved going outside on the porch and gazing at the stars while drawing pictures."

She continued: "We could have easily ignored her desires and sent her straight to bed, but we knew there was so much more value in saying yes to her invitation. To be outside gazing at the stars required no more than bundling up with jackets and blankets; watching the sky grow dark, and talking about the different moon phases. We seized her interest and made sure to show that we supported her passion right then because I never want to extinguish her flame for the outdoors while it's continuing to grow more bright." To her, the key to outdoor experience is to keep watching for these moments of confidence and support her daughter's self-driven outdoor experiences.



All children deserve to see the stars, including those without such perceptive parents, and those who live where starlight has faded completely.

How do we help all kids look up? Five Tips for Stargazing from "Vitamin N"

- ★ **Explore the universe together.** As your child grows, go to a park together, spread out a blanket, lie side by side for an hour or more & look up through moving leaves and branches at clouds or moon or stars.
- ★ **Set a family 'star date'.** If your family is lucky enough to live where the stars are visible, stargaze in the evening or very early morning. In the yard, from a balcony, or out beyond the city lights, take a blanket, binoculars, or small telescope, and stargaze together. With your kids, locate a few key constellations. Air and light pollution prevent two-thirds of the U.S. population and more than half of Europe's population from seeing the Milky Way with the naked eye. Schools, sky-watcher groups, amateur meteorologists, and even star charts in our smartphones can help.
- ★ **Study the constellations.** Learn where the North Star is, in relation to other constellations. "If you find yourself lost in the wilderness — or out at sea — a few useful star navigation techniques can help you find the way again," recommends the Appalachian Mountain Club. "Celestial navigation draws on the placement of the stars to infer location and it remains one of the best ways to find your north-south position. The key is to use the angles between the stars and the horizon to locate your position on the globe."
- ★ **Set up a world-watching window.** Not every child is able to leave the house. Some have mental, physical disabilities or an illness that limits or even prevents outdoor activities. They can still experience moon watching, stargazing (if stars are visible), cloud-spotting, bird-watching, and more. Keep handy: a nature notebook, field guides for birds and stars, binoculars, a telescope, a digital camera with a telephoto lens, and maybe even a sound recorder to capture the sounds of the natural world.
- ★ **Join or create stargazing partnerships.** Through scouting organizations, schools, places of worship, astronomy clubs, planetariums, museums, businesses and city, county or state recreation departments, join, promote or create sky-watching programs with a special focus on urban neighborhoods. One example, the Museum of Science & Industry (MOSI) in Tampa, Florida, which offers scholarships for kids from low-income families to go to MOSI Science Camp; gives free training to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) educators across Tampa Bay; and sends its mobile science lab around the state of Florida "to educate and inspire."

More Information & Resources

- <https://wisconsin astronomy.org/clubs>
- www.astronomy.com
- www.skyandtelescope.com/astronomy-resources/stargazing-basics/family-projects-and-experiments/
- www.darksky.org/ - International Dark-Sky Association
- <http://time.com/4433339/how-to-get-your-kids-into-star-gazing/> - *Time Magazine*
- <http://liebacklookup.com/stargazing-with-kids/>
- www.pinterest.com/kate808/star-gazing/ - astronomy activities on Pinterest

Richard Louv is co-founder and chairman emeritus of The Children & Nature Network, and author of "Vitamin N," "The Nature Principle," and "Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder."



Area Farmers' & Flea Markets



Crivitz Flea & Farmers' Market: Open every Thursday from May 25 through August 31, 8am-2pm across from St. Mary's Catholic Church at 800 Henriette Avenue. Wide variety of vendors with handmade arts & crafts, antiques, collectables and much more! Contact Barbara Uhl at 715-854-2030 to rent space by day or season up to first market date.

Stephenson Island Marinette Market: Will be at Stephenson Island, north on Hwy. 41 off of the Interstate Bridge between WI & MI border. 2-6 pm on Fridays only, no Saturdays. For more information, call 715-732-4333.

Menominee County Farm & Food Exchange: Saturdays 9 am-noon outside by the Jack's Fresh Market grocery store at 1207 8th Ave., Menominee MI (just over Interstate Bridge to the right). On Facebook or call 906-639-3377.

Menominee Historic Downtown Farmers Market: June 3 to September 30, Saturdays 9am-noon. Located at 818 1st Street (near the library) in Menominee, MI. Contact Lucy Pier, 906-863-8718, or visit online: www.menomineefarmersmarket.com.



For more information about area markets, visit Marinette County's tourism website at www.therealnorth.com or call the Marquette/Menominee Area Chamber of Commerce at 715-735-6681.



Like us on Facebook!

The Marinette County Land Information Department is now on Facebook. To find our Facebook page, go to the Marinette County website at www.marinettecounty.com, and then go into "Departments" (on the left hand side of the main page). Then click on "Land Information". There you will find a Facebook logo that you can click on and it will bring you to our page. **And before you leave our page, don't forget to "Like Us"!**

Northwoods Journal Online

Would you like to read current issues of the *Northwoods Journal* online? Go to www.marinettecounty.com and click "Northwoods Journal" in the Quick Links menu at the right of the page. We can send an e-mail reminder when each new issue is posted online. Contact Anne Bartels, LWCD Information & Education Specialist: abartels@marinettecounty.com or call 715-732-7784 for more information.

What's an "Indian Summer" and Fun Autumn Facts

An 'Indian summer' is a heat wave that occurs in the autumn. It refers to a period of considerably above normal temperatures, accompanied by dry and hazy conditions, usually after there has been a killing frost. Depending on latitude and elevation, the phenomenon can occur in the Northern Hemisphere between late September and mid-November. This is the opposite of a Blackberry winter where there is a killing frost right after the blackberry bushes bloom.



'Indian summer' is a phrase most North Americans use to describe an unseasonably warm and sunny patch of weather during autumn. In U.S. states that experience enough seasonal variation for a brief warming trend to be noticeable, the phenomena is generally observed anywhere from mid-October to early November and normally occurs after the first frost. The warm temperatures are usually accompanied by dry, hazy conditions.

An Indian summer is typically caused by a sharp shift in the jet stream from the south to the north. The warm weather may last anywhere from a few days to over a week and may happen multiple times before winter arrives for good.

To be a true 'Indian summer', the following generally agreed upon criteria must be met:

- Temperatures must be above 70 degrees Fahrenheit for a period of at least seven days or more after the autumnal equinox.
- In the Northeastern U.S. and Canada, the heat wave must occur after the first frost.

No one really knows how 'Indian summer' came to describe such periods. One theory suggests that early American settlers mistook the sight of sunrays through the hazy autumn air for Native American campfires, resulting in the name 'Indian summer.' Others speculate that Native Americans recognized this weather pattern and used the opportunity to gather additional food for the winter.



Fun Autumn Facts

Autumn is not only a wonderful time of year with crunchy, colorful leaves and cooler weather, but it is also a great time to learn some new autumn facts. When you think of autumn, you probably think of cooler weather, going back to school,

Halloween and falling leaves, but what else do you know about the season? Autumn is one of four seasons that occurs from roughly September 21 through December 21. It is more commonly known as "fall" because the leaves fall off of deciduous trees during the season. Here are some more autumn facts.

Leaf Facts

Think you know everything there is to know about leaves? You may be surprised to learn the following facts:

- 🍁 Leaves require sunlight, water, chlorophyll and carbon dioxide to make food.
- 🍁 As winter approaches, leaves make a coating for themselves which blocks their water source; in the absence of water, the leaves no longer produce chlorophyll (chlorophyll is what makes leaves green).
- 🍁 When the leaves turn colors in the fall, they actually are returning to their normal colors. During the summer months, the chlorophyll present in the leaves causes the leaves to turn green, blocking the leaves' actual colors.
- 🍁 Along with chlorophyll, leaves contain two other chemicals that cause coloring. The first is called *xanthophyll*, which is yellow in color. The other is *carotene*, which is orange in color.
- 🍁 Red and purple leaves are actually caused by the presence of sugars from sap that is trapped inside of the leaves.
- 🍁 Once the leaves have turned brown, they are dead and no longer receive any nutrients.



Halloween Facts

Halloween is a big part of autumn. Here are some fun facts about Halloween:

- 👻 The traditional Halloween colors of orange and black come from two different sources. First, orange is the color of autumn leaves

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This is the last issue of the 2017 Northwoods Journal! It will return in late May 2018 in time for the Memorial Day holiday weekend.



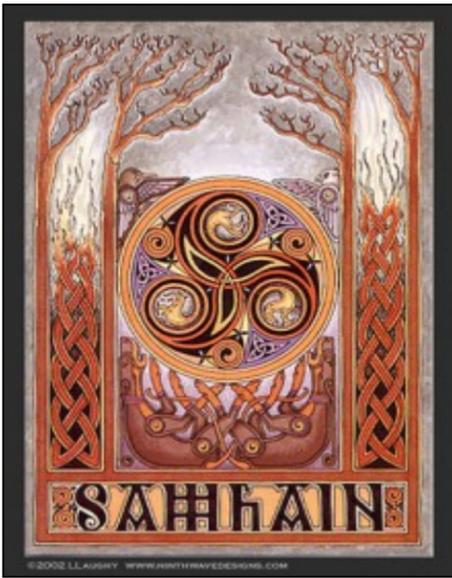
Continued from page 3, Autumn

and pumpkins, which have come to symbolize Halloween. Black is the color of darkness and mystery, which matches the theme of ghosts and other spooky creatures at Halloween.



There is no scientific proof that ghosts exist; however, there is a field of study called *parapsychology* that is dedicated to studying spooky phenomena like ghosts and psychic powers. Parapsychologists use scientific method to explore strange phenomena and learn more about things like ghosts.

Halloween is based on a Celtic pagan holiday to honor the dead - *Samhain*, or All Hallows Eve. October 31 is the last day of the Celtic calendar. In Celtic Ireland about 2,000 years ago, Samhain was the division of the year between the lighter half (summer) and the darker half (winter). At Samhain the division between this world and the otherworld was at its thinnest, allowing spirits to pass through. In the 1800s Irish immigrants brought the tradition to the United States, and it is celebrated as Halloween.



Wearing masks on Halloween is an ancient Celtic tradition. Ancient Celts believed that ghosts roamed on Halloween, and they wore masks to hide from the spirits.



Vampire folklore comes from Romania. Romanians in the 18th century believed that the dead could rise after death by suicide or other suspicious circumstances and feed on the blood of the living.

Thanksgiving Facts

Another holiday associated with autumn is Thanksgiving. Here are some fun facts:

- ☀️ Thanksgiving is always celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November in the United States. In Canada it is celebrated on the second Monday in October.
- ☀️ The first pilgrims arrived in North America in December of 1620.
- ☀️ The first Thanksgiving was celebrated in Plymouth in the fall of 1621.
- ☀️ The Native American tribe that was invited to the first Thanksgiving dinner was the Wampanoag Indians.



- ☀️ The first Thanksgiving feast lasted for three full days.
- ☀️ Thanksgiving was not recognized as an official holiday until 1941, when Congress decided that the holiday should be observed officially on the fourth Thursday in November every single year. The date was chosen by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in order to make the Christmas shopping season longer to aid in the country's financial recovery from the Great Depression. Prior to the date being set in 1941, it was up to the president to set the date for Thanksgiving each year.



This fall, get out and explore Marinette County and the surrounding areas – go for a fall color drive or bike ride, watch animals as they migrate or prepare for winter, go camping or hiking, visit some of Marinette County's waterfalls, go fishing or 4-wheeling, attend fall festivals or events, and enjoy the cooler temperatures.

More information about where to go and what to do in Marinette County:

- www.therealnorth.com - Marinette County Tourism
- www.crivitz.com
- www.marinette.wi.us
- www.peshtigochamber.com
- www.wausaukee.com/tourism.html
- www.exploringthenorth.com – Amberg, Beecher, Dunbar, Goodman, Niagara Pembine, Silver Cliff, and surrounding areas
- www.travelwisconsin.com/northeast/marinette-county
- www.travelwisconsin.com/fall-color-report

Fall is Here!

What's New at the Harmony Arboretum?

This summer there were some updates to the Harmony Arboretum & Demonstration Gardens, with more to come! Below are some photos of these updates and from the "Kids Dig It!" event held in August.



Above & below – new signage for the Children's Learning Garden



Above & below – Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary talked about raptors, including Expedition the Peregrine Falcon



The new table & chairs in the Mad Hatter's maze in the Children's Learning Garden



Fall into Winter: Help Backyard Wildlife Prepare for Cold Weather

www.humanesociety.org

Take a break from the raking and fall yard cleanup to help wild animals survive the winter! Leave those dead stalks, leaves, and seed heads in your garden to help feed overwintering birds, like the tufted titmouse below.

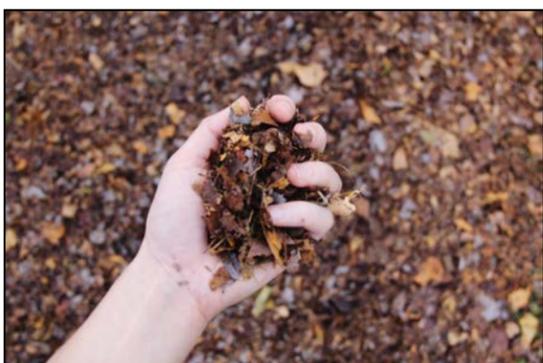


From a wild animal's point of view, our annual autumn rituals of raking leaves and cleaning up yards and gardens are a major blow - just when the going gets tough, we're removing prime sources of food and shelter.

So do the animals (and yourself) a favor and skip the raking, bagging, trimming, and other yard chores this fall - it might just help your neighborhood wildlife survive the coming cold weather. Here's what to do (or not do).

Put down the rake

Fallen leaves make great mulch for your yard and garden. Leave them where they fall, or, better yet, shred and spread them in your garden. This easy (and totally free) mulch will help conserve water and improve soil fertility. (For best results, make your mulch layer about two to three inches deep). You can also add leaves to your compost pile.



Leave dead flowers and plants in the garden

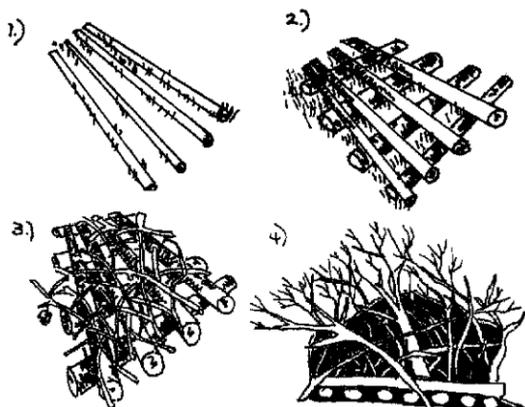
Hold off on nipping and tucking your garden beds or patio container plantings until springtime: those dead stalks, leaves, and seed heads provide food and protection to wildlife. Critters will go especially wild for large flowers like black-eyed Susans, sedums, purple coneflowers, joe-pyeweed, and sunflowers, as well as zinnias, marigolds, cosmos, phlox, and dianthus. The same goes for hardy ferns, which often remain green well into winter. Keep birds happy with plants like bayberries, junipers, and cotoneasters that produce berries all year. Animals will also forage the seeds of dead grasses, and next spring, birds will use old stalks and foliage for nest-building material.



Build a brush pile

Want an easy (and cheap) way to clear your yard of stray branches and twigs? Build a

brush pile to provide a safe spot for ground-nesting birds, chipmunks, rabbits, and hibernating reptiles, amphibians, and insects. Put it in an out-of-the-way corner of your property, preferably close to food sources and away from buildings. Start with a layer of larger limbs and stack branches loosely, adding grasses and leaves to create nooks and crannies.



Your firewood pile can also make a good shelter for wildlife, even if you'll be disturbing it occasionally throughout the winter. Pile your logs crisscross fashion in order to create internal spaces that offer small animals a little relief from the cold. This chipmunk seems to have made himself right at home in some logs.



Provide water that won't freeze

As reliable watering holes dry up or ice over, water is one of the most important elements you can provide for wildlife. Anyone anywhere can do this, whether you have a big yard, a small patio, or even an apartment balcony. Providing water close to home can save animals from wasting valuable energy, which may mean the difference between life and death on the coldest days. Invest in a quality heater for your birdbath or artificial pond to keep water ice-free.

For more information about helping wildlife prepare for winter, visit:

- 🐾 <http://blog.nwf.org/2015/01/tips-for-winter-bird-feeding/> - National Wildlife Federation
- 🐾 www.audubon.org/news/winterize-your-yard-birds - National Audubon Society
- 🐾 www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/home/?cid=nrcs143_023553 - US Dept. of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- 🐾 www.wideopenspaces.com/10-ways-winterize-yard-promote-wildlife/
- 🐾 www.backyardhabitat.info/PDF_Files/Winterize%20Your%20Yard%20for%20Wildlife.pdf
- 🐾 www.mnn.com/your-home/organic-farming-gardening/stories/how-to-winterize-your-garden



Northern Red-bellied snake

Annual Halloween Family Fun Fest at Harmony Arboretum
Saturday, October 14, 2:00-5:00 p.m.



Visit the Children's Learning Garden at the Harmony Arboretum for a 'spooktacularly' good time! Crafts, games, storytelling, pumpkin decorating, refreshments, a costume parade and more for the whole family! *The event is free, but non-perishable food item donations are encouraged.*



Visitors explore the Children's Garden



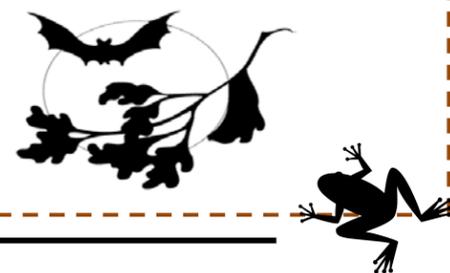
A plethora of decorated pumpkins



Crafts and refreshments in the pavilion

For questions or to volunteer for this event, please call the UW-Extension office at 715-732-7510, or email

gthompson@marinettecounty.com



Salting Goes Beyond the Pavement – Taking on Winter without Taking out the Environment

www.wisaltwise.com

With fall approaching, we all start to think about wintertime. Wisconsin is known for its brutal and unforgiving winters, so residents take extra steps to make sure we're safe throughout winter storms. This includes using salt to deice the walking and driving surfaces at our homes and businesses. But what you may not know is that using this salt can be harmful to our environment and our waters, and can put loved ones at risk.



Using more salt doesn't make your sidewalks safer - it harms plants and animals, pollutes our water, damages buildings and corrodes vehicles, roads and bridges. Once you put it down, salt doesn't go away. Instead, it travels into our lakes and streams, putting our aquatic life at risk and endangering our freshwater resources. Salt also alters the composition of soil, slows plant growth and weakens the concrete, brick and stone that make up your home and garage. Using the right amount of salt maximizes your family's safety. *Using 10 pounds less salt this season will protect over 3,000 gallons of water from being permanently polluted.* Be WI Salt Wise!



Salting for Safety

It's understandable that you want to keep your home safe, especially when a winter storm hits. Fortunately, there are ways you can improve your salt use and safety:

- **Pre-treat walkways** with a small amount of liquid deicer before the storm hits to prevent snow and ice from building up. Dissolve salt in warm water until salt no longer dissolves (or take some from your water softener tank) to create a brine, and apply it with a watering can.
- **Clear walkways** and other areas before the snow turns to ice. The more snow you remove manually, the less salt you use and the more effective it will be.

- **Only use deicers in critical areas and apply the least amount necessary.** Use less than four pounds of salt per 1,000 square feet (an average parking space is about 150 square feet), or, as a general rule, just use less salt than you did last year. One twelve-ounce container (like a coffee cup) is sufficient to salt sixty to seventy feet of sidewalk.

- If there are leftover crystals still visible after salting, you can **sweep the excess up** to be reused and try to use less next time.

- At temperatures below 15 degrees Fahrenheit, salt becomes less effective. **Consider using sand** instead for traction.

- **Use the right product.** Look at product labels for specific ingredients:

- ✓ **Sodium chloride:** Sodium chloride is commonly known as **rock salt** and is the least expensive deicer product. It's also hard on the environment and not very effective at pavement temperatures less than 15°F.
- ✓ **Calcium chloride:** This compound is effective at temperatures down to -20°F and is less harmful to vegetation.
- ✓ **Calcium magnesium acetate:** This salt-free product works down to 20°F and is safer for vegetation and concrete surfaces.
- ✓ **Sand:** Sand provides traction at any temperature, but it *should not be mixed with deicers.*

- **Store ice melting products in airtight containers** to maintain maximum effectiveness.

- When your pet comes in from being outside, **wipe his or her paws** and underside.

- **Wear boots or shoes with good traction** so you can walk safely to your destination.

- Watch a homeowner tips video by visiting www.youtube.com/watch?v=qc8Y-Nmfmo.

- Read and pass along *WI Salt Wise* brochures.

- If you are responsible for snow and ice removal somewhere other than your home, please check out our training and resources tab by visiting www.wisaltwise.com.

Small steps equal a big payoff for our environment. To discover more ways you can help Wisconsin, visit www.wisaltwise.com.



Five Reasons to Ditch the Playground and Take Your Kid to the River

by Amy Souers Kober, www.americanrivers.org



Our family just spent a weekend on Oregon's North Umpqua River. Watching my four year old play on the riverbank, I saw over and over again how rivers are the best playgrounds. The unstructured time for play, discovery, and relaxation reminded me that visiting a river is a great way to de-stress, get exercise, spend time together, and reconnect. Make it a family tradition. Make it a habit. It's fun, and you and your kids will be healthier and happier for it. *Here are five reasons why rivers are the best playgrounds:*

1. Move and explore

River and stream banks have everything a kid needs to move and play at his or her own pace and style: beaches, fallen trees and logs, and rocks. The Umpqua River has some great bedrock ledges, some smooth, some rutted, and some with little potholes of rainwater. It's a natural playground inspiring all kinds of motion - balancing on mossy logs, climbing over and under branches, hopping around the bedrock, and splashing in puddles.



2. Make a friend

Typical playgrounds don't have the variety of wildlife you can find on a river. We watched water striders in the calm shallows, and cheered at a duck as it paddled through a little rapid. We enjoyed the background chorus of birdsong and tried to guess which animals live in the little holes, caves, and cracks under rocks and logs.

3. Play with sticks

Kids love sticks. Dig with them, whack something with them, and wave them around in the air. My little boy loves stick swords and we had some good ninja battles on the river bank. Driftwood chunks come in all shapes and sizes and are great for pretend play.

4. Learn

Where does all this water come from? Where is it going? We talked about how the river sculpts the banks and how it moves sand, gravel, even big boulders, downstream.



5. Dream

We all need beauty, something bigger than ourselves that captures our hearts and minds. Kids (and adults) need places where our imaginations are free to soar. Rivers give us all of this. Sit and watch the light dance on the

From roadways to waterways

Salt is used to melt ice during the winter, but rain and melting snow in the spring wash it off the roads. The salt winds up in reservoirs and other bodies of water.

In the winter, trucks spread rock salt on local roads to melt snow and ice.

As the snow and ice melt, salt is washed down storm drains that empty into the reservoirs.

Salt also takes its toll on trees and plants along roadsides, eventually destroying the natural buffers that filter pollution before it reaches wells and reservoirs. It also seeps into small, temporary pools of water where frogs and other amphibians lay their eggs.



Source: Staff research

RL REBACH/STAFF ARTIST



Fall Lawn Care Is Critical to Lawn Health

Scott Reuss, Marinette & Florence County UW-Extension



As fall quickly approaches, there are a number of activities that can be done now to help your lawn for next spring and summer. Proper weed control and fertility management now will increase your lawn's ability to survive the winter and decrease the work you need to do next spring to have a healthy, vibrant lawn.

So far in 2017, we have not had to worry about water availability - at least not too little water! In more normal summers, how much water our lawns receive from rainfall is a key to their health. Particularly important is that the lawns are not facing drought stress in September and October, as that can set them up for winter damage. If we are in a dry spell then, you will need to water your turf areas at the rate of one inch of water per week to make sure those areas go into winter with healthy root systems.

Fall is the best time to control perennial weeds in your lawn. Ground ivy, commonly known as creeping charlie; clovers; plantain; dandelions; and other perennial broadleaf weeds can be fairly easily controlled in the fall. Some of these weeds are killed easily with an application of any herbicide containing 2,4-D.



For adequate control of the ground ivy, clovers, and chickweed, and possibly others, you will probably need to use one of the class of herbicides known as the *three-way herbicides*. These herbicides contain all three of the active ingredients 2,4-D; MCPP or mecoprop; and dicamba. An example of this family of products is Tri-Mec. If you are using a three-way type herbicide, you must leave an unsprayed safety zone around perennial flowers, shrubs, and trees, as the dicamba can potentially harm these plants.



The fall application of fertilizer is the most critical application of the year to maintaining a healthy lawn. Optimum timing is to apply this final application around October 1st. With most of our soils, it is warranted to apply the type of turf fertilizers known as 'winterizer' fertilizers. These fertilizers provide both nitrogen and potassium to the turf, maximizing the root and crown health of the plants. If you have had a soil test done recently and know that you have good levels of potassium, already, you can save money and just use a normal turf fertilizer.



With either type of fertilizer, you want to apply a rate of fertilizer equivalent to applying between one-half and one pound of actual nitrogen per 1000 square feet. For winterizer types, that is between 2.25 and 4.5 lbs of fertilizer or 1.5 to 3 lbs of normal turf fertilizer per 1000 sq. ft. If you want to test your lawn, garden, or landscape area soil, contact Scott or Gina at the UW-Extension office at 715-732-7510. A soil test will provide the information needed to decide what fertilizer and at what rates will best meet the needs of your plants.



Early fall is also the best time to do any renovation or seeding projects. Research conducted at the O.J. Noer Turf Research Facility indicates that double aerifying and overseeding turf is the most uniform method of increasing turf density. If you are reseeding any portions of lawn, here are some things to consider when choosing your seed:

- Kentucky Bluegrass prefers full sun and can tolerate high traffic
- Fine fescues are more shade-tolerant than other species and need less fertilizer, but are not traffic-tolerant
- Perennial ryegrass germinates quickly but does not survive winters or drought well, thus a mix should have less than 20% of this species
- Rough or Supina bluegrasses are good choices for shady, moist soil sites

These are general statements, as there are many cultivars within each turf species, each with differing characteristics. A good resource is the UW-Extension bulletin on lawn renovation and establishment, found online at <http://cecommerce.uwex.edu/pdfs/A3434.PDF>

If you have any other lawn-related questions or want more in-depth information please call Scott Reuss, crops/soils/horticulture agent, at the UW-Extension office, 715-732-7510, or toll-free at 1-877-884-4408, or stop by the office on the third floor of the Marinette County Courthouse.

Autumn Fire Prevention

As September ushers in the start of a new school year, Mother Nature begins her process of settling down for the winter. Leaves turn colors and fall from trees; plants and grasses go dormant, leaving only crispy brown remnants of their green summer glory. **And, as the temperatures and leaves drop, the risk of wildfires rises.**

Wildfires occur any time of the year when the ground is not snow covered. The air temperature can be below freezing or well above 80. This wide range of conditions - combined with campfires and the burning of leaves, brush, and even trash - increase the opportunities for fires to escape and burn natural resources and personal property.

In Marinette County, the main causes of wildfires during fall are trees and limbs falling on power lines, campfires, lightning, logging or farm equipment, burn barrels, leaf and brush burning and ash disposal. Taking precautions any time you use fire outdoors is key to preventing wildfires, and avoiding paying a hefty suppression bill should you start one.



If you use a woodstove or fireplace for heating your home, empty ashes into a metal container with a tight fitting lid or dump ashes onto bare soil then drown the ash with water and stir until you're sure no hot embers remain. The same goes for campfires, burn barrels and burned leaf and brush piles – before you leave the area, drown the ashes, stir, and keep adding water until all smoke is gone.

Keep aware of fire danger year-round by bookmarking the DNR's fire Web page: dnr.wi.gov (keyword 'fire'). For those of you with smartphones, the state map of fire danger is now mobile-friendly.

Wisconsin has a long history of destructive wildfires. Oct. 8 will be the 145th anniversary of the Peshtigo Fire, considered to be our nation's deadliest fire. The Peshtigo Fire burned more than a million acres of northeastern Wisconsin and upper Michigan, destroyed 12 communities, and took an estimated 1,200 to 2,400 lives. For more information about "Fire-wise" methods or resources, email Jolene.ackerman@wi.gov or call 608-267-7677.

Northwoods Journal Volume 15, Issue 4

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

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- Marinette Co. UW-Extension

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

Please send comments to:
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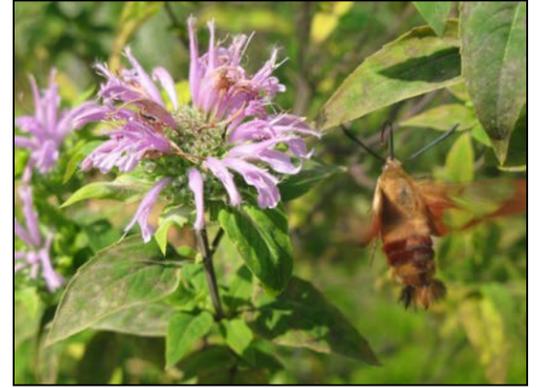
Area Events Calendar



- June-October Stephenson Island Marinette Market** Marinette Farmer's Market will be at Stephenson Island, located North on Hwy 41, off the Interstate Bridge between the WI and MI borders. 2pm-6pm on Fridays No Saturdays. For more information, please call 715/732-4333.
- September 2 & 3 Forgotten Fire Winery.** Summer concert series. September 2 ` Noon to 4 pm featuring Charlie Scoggins and Food Truck: Taste of Ethiopia. September 3 ~ Summer concert series Noon to 4 pm featuring Rosebrook and Food Truck: Smoked to the Bone.
- September 3 Ice Cream Social at West Shore Fishing Museum.** 12-4p.m. Held at the West Shore Fishing Museum from noon to 4 p.m. Community picnic with brats and dogs, homemade pies, ice cream, keg root beer, live music, kids' games, raffle. Explore three museum buildings, gift shop, five commercial fishing boats, nature trails, and gardens and grounds. Located 15 miles north of Menominee on M-35. Enter the museum grounds through Bailey Park.
- September 9 Country Fling.** 1pm at Parkway Inn, N9906 Parkway Road in Crivitz. Food, beverages and booyah with music by Donna and the Beelers and Rock n' Randy. For more information call Ronald at 715-757-3451.
- September 13 Forgotten Fire Winery.** Pound N Pour. 6:30 to 9:00 pm Join us for this fun drumming inspired workout! Cost of the class is \$5.00. Call or message Forgotten Fire Winery to reserve your spot. 715-582-3473
- September 17 Forest Home Cemetery Walking Tour.** Held from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Tours start every 10 minutes. Pre-registration and payment accepted at the cemetery mausoleum. Limited tickets are \$5 each. Proceeds benefit the preservation of the chapel at the cemetery. Parking along Mary St. is recommended. Walks begin at the chapel. For additional information or to register, people may call 715-732-5173.
- September 23 Menominee Historic Waterfront Downtown Giant Pumpkin Festival.** Held at Marina Park, Menominee. Events include pie eating competition, jump around bouncy fun, pumpkin seed spitting contest, food and craft vendors, farmers market, live music, and the Giant Pumpkin Regatta Boat Race. For applications for the Giant Pumpkin Race people may email giantpumpkinfestival6@gmail.com. To be a vendor, email tkruse60@hotmail.com or call 906-863-8718.
- Forgotten Fire Winery 6th Anniversary Bash!** Noon to 4 pm. Featuring Sunny and the Heat with the Food Truck: Lumpia City.
- September 27 Forgotten Fire Winery Sip N Stretch-Yoga.** 6:30 to 9 pm. Cost of the class is \$5.00 with drink specials available for the evening. Contact Kasey Eisch-Ermis (Our Yoga Guru) at 715-854-7766 to reserve your spot.
- September 30 Peshtigo Historical Days.** Fire tower walk/run at 8am with registration from 6:30-7:45am. Parade starts at 10:30am. All main events at Badger Park – no admission charged. Car Show begins at 1 pm Activities include: horseshoe tournament, live music from 11:30am to 9:30pm, craft booths, food, balloon jumping equipment and games all day with fireworks at dusk.
- September 30 Crivitz Fall Harvest Fest** at the Crivitz High School from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. Many Crafters, over 60 Vendors, Bake Sale, Outdoor Decorations. Admission is canned good for a donation to the Crivitz Food Pantry.
- October 7 Wausaukee Fall Festival.** 9th Annual Wausaukee Fall Festival will host over 100 crafters lining the village from North of Jackson Street to Evergreen Plaza on east sidewalk of Highway 141. Food, beverage, crafters, horse drawn wagon rides, live music and the event will be held rain or shine. 9am to 3pm. For more information treasurer@villageofwausaukee.com or contact Sara at 715-856-5341.
- October 11 Forgotten Fire Winery Pound N Pour.** 6:30 to 9 pm. Join us for this fun drumming inspired workout! Cost of the class is \$5. Call or message Forgotten Fire Winery to reserve your spot. 715-582-3473
- October 14 Halloween Family Fun Fest 2:00-5:00 pm at the Harmony Arboretum - SEE PAGE 5**
A family oriented event for kids of all ages. A few spooky things to keep you guessing! Plus many fun activities to keep all family members busy and active for your entire visit. Hands-on nature crafts, games, a costume parade and learning opportunities are just a few of the activities you can expect. Refreshments are available. Call 715-732-7510 for more information.
- October 25 Forgotten Fire Winery Sip N Stretch-Yoga.** 6:30 to 9 pm. Cost of the class is \$5.00 with drink specials available for the evening. Contact Kasey Eisch-Ermis (Our Yoga Guru) at 715-854-7766 to reserve your spot.
- November 17 Forgotten Fire Winery Deer Hunter Widows Night.** 6 to 9 pm. Check out www.forgottenfirewinery.com for more information.
- November 20 Hidden History of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."** Presented by author and columnist, Rochelle Pennington at the Stephenson Public Library at 1:30 p.m. This program takes a close-up look at the literary genius of Charles Dickens, England's most celebrated Victorian novelist, and explores the hidden history behind the author's 1843 Christmas classic. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, people may call Mariel Carter, 715-732-7570.
- The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald.** Presented by Rochelle Pennington at the Stephenson Public Library at 6:30 p.m. Learn about the history and mystery surrounding the Edmund Fitzgerald and the various theories and opposing views of dive detectives who are still trying to solve the mystery of what led to the demise of the 29-man crew. Audience members will be led from the launch of the ship to its final radio broadcasts, and from the Fitz's discovery on Superior's bottom to the raising of artifacts. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, people may contact Mariel Carter, 715-732-7570.
- December 9 Forgotten Fire Winery Jingle and Mingle Holiday Open House.** 10 am to 5 pm. Check out www.forgottenfirewinery.com for more information.



Harmony Arboretum Fall Schedule of Events



Located seven miles west of Marinette off of Highway 64, then $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south on County E. All programs are free unless otherwise stated. For more information, call UW-Extension at 715-732-7510 or Land & Water Conservation at 715-732-7780.

Sept. 9 - Plant Sale / Plant Pest Clinic 9:00am-Noon

Support the work done at Harmony Arboretum by purchasing plants from the Northern Lights Master Gardener Volunteers. UWEX staff will be on hand to identify any plant pest samples brought in and assist in pest management issues.

Sept. 13 - Astronomy at the Arboretum 7:30-8:45 pm

Introduction to stars, constellations, star lore, and other space-related topics - includes a stargazing tour. Dress for the weather, hot beverages will be provided; if rain or mostly overcast, event will be cancelled.

Sept. 14 - Winter Squash & Pumpkin Fest, 5:30-7:30 pm

Squashes and pumpkins have an amazing array of flavor profiles and can also be prepared/served in many different methods. Share in the bounty of flavors from the vine crops grown at Harmony and learn about harvest, storage, and preservation of these vitamin and flavor-packed garden favorites.



October 14 - Halloween Family Fun Fest, 2:00-5:00 pm

A family oriented event for kids. Hands-on nature crafts, games, farm animal learning & petting area, with many more activities. Check the website for more program details. Free ~ but food pantry donations accepted at entrance.

November 20 - Astronomy at the Arboretum, 5:45 -7:00 pm

Introduction to stars, constellations, star lore, and other space related topics - includes a stargazing tour. Dress for the weather, hot beverages will be provided; if rain or mostly overcast, event will be cancelled.

