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Northwoods Journal

June 2008

Enjoying and Protecting Marinette County's Outdoor Life

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Special Insert: *Local Produce Growers Guide, courtesy of UWEX*

2007 Environmental Poster Contest Winner!



Andy Anderson of Niagara Elementary School receives his award from County Conservationist, Greg Cleereman, for placing first in the Primary Division at the state level of the 2007 WLWCA Environmental Poster Contest. Watch for details regarding the 2008 Poster Contest in the September issue!



Hydrilla can cause many problems, including property damage to boats as seen here. Photo courtesy of Jeff Schardt, University of Florida.

Invasive Species on the March in Marinette County Lakes!

By Chuck Druckrev, Water Resource Specialist

2007 was a good year for aquatic invasive species...but not so good for Marinette County Lakes. Last year we saw an explosion of zebra mussels in Lake Noquebay, the discovery of Eurasian water milfoil in two new lakes, and the first ever report of hydrilla (a particularly nasty aquatic plant) in Wisconsin.

Zebra mussels were first discovered in Lake Noquebay in 2006. An inspection at the time showed they were widespread but fairly sparse. A survey of the lake in 2007 showed mussels covering rocks, clamshells and even the stems of many aquatic plants. There were also numerous reports of swimmers and water skiers cutting their feet on zebra mussel shells, and boat motors being damaged as zebra mussels clog their cooling systems.

Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) is a European plant that has been on the march in Wisconsin for more than a decade. Already common in the Peshtigo and Menominee River flowages, it was found last summer in Little Newton Lake and Beecher Lake. Eurasian water milfoil is an aggressive plant that over winters green and grows quickly in the spring to form a canopy that shades out many of our native plants. Throughout Wisconsin EWM has degraded water quality, impeded recreation and cost lake users millions of dollars in control costs.

As bad as EWM is, it pales in comparison to hydrilla, which was discovered in August in a private pond near Athelstane. A native of Africa and South Asia, hydrilla was introduced to Florida in the 1950's and has been spreading throughout the Southeast U.S. ever since. In many southern states its now public enemy number one because of its ability to choke lakes and canals with growth that makes EWM look tame by comparison. Until last year hydrilla had never been found north of central Indiana!

While these invasions are shocking, it's only a sampling of what is to come if we are not careful. The Bay of Green Bay is teeming with dozens of invasive aquatic species, and new ones are arriving every year in the ballast water of international ships. From the Bay it's only a short ride by boat trailer or live well to your favorite lake. While boating is the number one method of invasive species transfer, it's not the only one. It is thought that hydrilla got to Marinette County in a shipment of water garden plants from an out-of-state aquatic plant nursery.

So what are we doing to stem this tide of invasions? As with most problems, prevention is the first line of defense. In Wisconsin it is

currently illegal to launch a boat with plant fragments on the trailer. While this helps stop the transfer between lakes, it does little to prevent their initial introduction. Unfortunately the laws regulating shipping and nurseries are inadequate and often poorly enforced. To stop this rising tide of invasives it's up to us. *Everyone who cares about lakes and streams needs to educate themselves and their neighbors about the threat of aquatic invasive species.*

When prevention fails, all hope falls to early detection and rapid response. In Little Newton Lake the EWM invasion was caught early, offering a chance for eradication. The Newton Lake Association and Marinette County acted quickly and received a state grant to try and eradicate the EWM. The hydrilla infestation occurred in a man-made pond. In an effort to eradicate the invader the pond was treated with herbicides and drained for the winter. The State and County continue to work with the landowners to ensure the hydrilla is eradicated. Unfortunately, for many species like zebra mussels, exotic algae, water fleas, and new fish diseases like viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) there are no options for eradication or control. Once in a lake they are there to stay and the lake will have to adapt.

Clearly then, if we are to prevent the spread of these aquatic invasive species, we all have to be more careful of aquatic hitchhikers and pay closer attention to our lakes and streams. If we can do this, maybe 2008 can be a better year for Marinette County lakes. To this end, the Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Division is sponsoring two workshops this summer to help landowners and concerned lake users fight the threat of aquatic invasive species: the *Clean Boats, Clean Waters Volunteer Watercraft Inspection Workshop* and the *Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring Workshop*. Both workshops are free but early registration is required. **See page 3 for more details about each of these workshops.**



A cluster of Zebra mussels. Photo courtesy of Minnesota Sea Grant.



For the third year, **Sand Lake Conservation Camp** will be held June 19-21 at Camp Bird in Crivitz, Wisconsin. The purpose of Conservation Camp is to introduce youth to the wide variety of opportunities in natural resources and conservation careers, provide positive educational outdoor experiences, and to help them better appreciate and understand nature. Staff from various natural resource agencies present in-depth, hands-on programs covering topics such as wildlife habitat, ecosystems, water quality, fisheries, invasive species, forestry, orienteering, and canoeing. In addition, staff and volunteers serve as counselors and group leaders for the duration of camp.



Waterfront view of Sand Lake



Participants canoeing on Sand Lake

Youth entering grades 6-10 in the fall from Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula are invited to participate. The registration fee of \$50 covers lodging, food, and all activities and programs. Scholarships are available for those interested - call the Land & Water Conservation office for more information.



Aquatic invertebrate study

Camp sponsors include the Land & Water Conservation Division, Parks & Forestry Department, UW-Extension, Wisconsin DNR, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Wisconsin Public Service, M&M Area Community Foundation, and 4imprint of Oshkosh.

For more information, visit us online at www.marinettecounty.com. Just do a search for "Sand Lake" or "Conservation Camp". You can also contact Anne Warren, Information & Education Specialist, at 715-732-7784 or send her an email at awarren@marinettecounty.com.



Enjoying a campfire after the evening program

The Official 2007-2008 Marinette County Plat Book

Now available at the Marinette County Land Information Office
Marinette County Courthouse
1926 Hall Avenue, Marinette, WI

For more information, please call 715-732-7780 or visit the Marinette County website:
www.marinettecounty.com

FREE DAY AT MARINETTE COUNTY PARKS!

All Marinette County Parks, boat landings and day use areas will have free admission on Saturday, June 7 (camping fees still apply). Come and enjoy the natural scenic beauty of our county. There are 22 County Park properties to explore. Here are some of the most popular county parks you can visit:

Twin Bridges Park (94 Acres) Provides a 62-unit campground with electricity on each site, brand-new shower/flush toilet building, picnicking, boating, swimming, fishing, playground and a scenic, rocky overlook of High Falls Flowage on the Peshtigo River. Follow County Highway X west 11 miles from US-141 at Middle Inlet, then north ½ mile on Parkway Road.

Morgan Park (160 Acres) Provides a campground with electricity for each site, swimming and beach on Timm's Lake, a lodge, lake and stream fishing, boat landing, playground, rock outcroppings and an overlook. 32-unit campsite on Timm's Lake in the Town of Niagara. Turn east on County Rd R (Kremlin Road) from US-141 on north edge of Pembine, follow County Rd R (Kremlin Road) 6 miles, then north 1 mile on Timm's Lake Road. A small youth group campsite is available by reservation.

Goodman Park (240 Acres) Trout fishing, a bridge over Strong Falls, huge red pines, two lodges for day use rental, a hiking-skiing trail, camping, and lovely scenery. 15-unit campsite on the Peshtigo River in the Town of Silver Cliff. A small group campsite is available by reservation. Go west from US-141 at Wausaukee on County Highway C for 20 miles, then north 9 miles on Parkway Road, then northwest 2 miles on Goodman Park Road.

Veteran's Memorial Park (320 Acres) Offers a bridge over Veteran's Falls, a pool at the bottom of the falls, camping, trout fishing, and a large day use area. Holds 15 campsites on the Thunder River. Follow County Highway W west of Crivitz for 12 miles to Parkway road, then north 3 miles.

12-Foot Falls Park (160 Acres) Features a waterfall, picnic area, rustic camping, trout fishing and scenery. Has an 11-unit campground. Many other waterfalls and walking trails in the area. Located in the Town of Dunbar on the North Branch of the Pike River. Follow Lily Lake Road south off Hwy 8, Twin Lake Road west, and Twelve Foot Falls Road south.

McClintock Park (320 Acres) Includes three bridges over McClintock Falls, picnic area, camping, trout fishing, and an interesting hardwood-hemlock stand. Holds 10 campsites on the Peshtigo River in the Town of Silver Cliff. Located north of Veteran's Memorial Park on Parkway Road.

Thunder Mountain Overlook Park (160 Acres). Offers a great view of western Marinette County including High Falls Flowage. Follow County Highway W west from Crivitz for 14 miles to Cauldron Falls Road, then north 2 and a half miles. Restroom and hiking trail are available to park visitors. No other facilities at this time.

Dave's Falls Park (66 Acres) Features a spectacular waterfall, picnic area, and a bridge over the roaring Pike River. The park is just off US Hwy 141, one mile south of Amberg. The entrance sign is right on the highway.

Lake Noquebay Park (12 Acres) Provides a swimming beach, boat landing, large enclosed lodge for day use rental, bathhouse for swimmers, and picnic facilities. The park is located east of Crivitz on County Road GG.

If you would like to continue visiting our beautiful parks throughout the summer, a \$3 entrance fee is charged at the gate. Otherwise, a \$12 annual park sticker can be obtained from the Parks Department. For more information about county parks, please call (715) 732-7530, or visit us online at www.marinettecounty.com

Northwoods Journal

Volume 6, Issue 1

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

Published in cooperation by:

- Â Marinette County Land Information Department, Land & Water Conservation Division
- Â Marinette County Parks & Outdoor Recreation Department
- Â University of Wisconsin-Extension

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

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





Clean Boats, Clean Waters Volunteer Watercraft Inspection Workshop

Workshop Date: Saturday May 31, 2008
Time & Location: 9:00am – 12:00pm (8:30am registration)
Stephenson Town Hall, W11280 County Hwy. X, Crivitz

With the growing concern over the spread of aquatic invasive species in Marinette County, many lake association members and other concerned citizens are looking for ways to get involved. The **Clean**

Boats, Clean Waters Volunteer Watercraft Inspection Program assists Wisconsin residents in stopping the spread of invasive species from lake to lake. The workshop will help volunteers establish a volunteer watercraft inspection program for their lake, encourage boaters to take preventative measures, and take a frontline defense against aquatic invasive species. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, UW-Extension, and Wisconsin Association of Lakes are offering training and resource kits to be used by volunteers at boat landings. The resource kit aids volunteers in educating boaters about aquatic invasive species, how they travel from lake to lake, and what can be done to prevent their spread. You can learn more by visiting the CBCW website at <http://www.uwsp.edu/CNR/uwexlakes/CBCW>.

This workshop is one of a series of opportunities to receive training before the summer of 2008. Workshops are open to adults and youth. Adults or lake associations interested in participating and receiving a handbook and resource kit are strongly encouraged to work with a local youth partner. The workshop is free but a resource kit is available for \$25.00. The resource kit includes a handbook, watercraft inspection checklists, and educational materials to distribute to boaters. Early registration is required! Please contact the Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Division at 715-732-7780 to sign up for the workshop or for more information.

Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring Workshop

Workshop Date: Saturday June 7, 2008
Time & Location: 9:00am – 12:00pm (8:30am registration)
Stephenson Town Hall, W11280 County Hwy. X, Crivitz

The first response to the threat of aquatic invasive species is prevention. When this doesn't work, early detection and rapid response offer the best hope for successful control or eradication. In recent years, Marinette County Lakes have come under attack from several invasive exotic species. In 2006 Zebra Mussels were found in Lake Noquebay, then in 2007 Eurasian Water Milfoil, was discovered in Little Newton Lake and Beecher Lake. Topping the list was the discovery last fall of Hydrilla, one of the worst exotic lake plants in the country, in a private pond near Athelstane.

To help in this fight, the Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Division is sponsoring the **Citizen Lake Monitoring Network Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring Workshop**. This workshop will train lakefront property owners, sportsmen, and concerned citizens to monitor their favorite lakes for invasive species. Volunteers will learn how to identify and monitor the following invasives: Eurasian water milfoil, curly-leaf pondweed, purple loosestrife, hydrilla, rusty crayfish, zebra mussels, Chinese and banded mystery snails, spiny and fishhook waterfleas and freshwater jellyfish. Workshop presenters will provide details on invasive species identification, organizing an effective monitoring team, where and when to look for invasive species, and what to do if you suspect that you have found an invasive plant or animal. The workshop includes a free monitoring kit (one free kit per lake). Additional kits may be purchased at a cost of \$65 (basic kit) to \$165 (advanced).

Early registration is required! Please contact the Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Division at 715-732-7780 to sign up for the workshop. For more information, contact Laura Herman, Citizen Lake Monitoring Network Coordinator, 715-365-8998 or laura.herman@uwsp.edu.



Bird Hike at Harmony Arboretum

If you enjoy listening to the birds sing each summer but don't know who is singing to you, join us Saturday, June 14, at Harmony Arboretum from 6-8 a.m. Walk the property with Greg Cleereman, County Conservationist, and learn to identify birds by sight and song. The Arboretum covers about 478 acres and encompasses habitats from prairie to upland hardwoods to shrub wetland. Over the years, we have found about 80 bird species including bobolink and black-billed cuckoo. Bring binoculars, a field guide, waterproof footwear (for the dew), insect repellent, and your bird questions. We have a few pairs of binoculars for people in need. Our route consists of easy walking on internal roads and trails. Harmony Arboretum is located just south of Hwy 64 on County E about 7 miles west of Marinette. For more information, call the Land & Water Conservation office at 715-732-7780 or visit us online at www.marinettecounty.com.



MAR-OCO County Landfill

(Marinette and Oconto Counties)
 N7785 Shaffer Road, 5 miles west of
 Crivitz off of County Rd. A
 (715) 854-7530

2008 Hours

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 1st & 3rd Saturdays, April – October
 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 Closed all other Saturdays, Sundays &
 holidays

Yard waste, any liquid waste and recyclable items are not accepted.

For more information, visit online at
www.marinettecounty.com



Recycling Centers

Town of Stephenson
 Twin Bridge site, County X
 Tuesday, Saturday, Sunday
 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Crivitz site, August Street
 Wednesday and Saturday
 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Newspaper, cardboard, magazines, glass bottles and jars, tin cans, aluminum, plastic containers (1 & 2), used motor oil, car batteries, scrap metal & yard waste accepted. For information on how to prepare items for recycling, visit <http://www.stephensonwisc.com/landfill/>.

Town of Peshtigo

W1945 Old Peshtigo Road
 2nd, 4th, 5th Saturdays each month
 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
 1st, 3rd, 5th Wednesdays each month
 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

We accept tires, appliances and air conditioners with Freon, stoves, microwaves, washers, dryers, any kind of metal (no motor vehicles), televisions, automotive oil (no cooking oil or antifreeze), paper, cardboard, plastic, glass, aluminum, tin, batteries, bagged garbage and yard waste. No paint or hazardous materials. Some fees may apply. Website: www.townofpeshtigo.org/Recycling.htm.

Town of Athelstane

(715) 856-6428
 Wednesday, 12:00 – 4p.m.
 Saturday, 12:00 – 4p.m.
 Sunday, 8a.m. – 4p.m.

Cans, cardboard, brown & clear glass, magazines, paper, plastic #1 & #2, and drain oil accepted; no building materials or paint. Some yard waste accepted. Fees may apply for furniture & appliances. Website: www.athelstanewi.com/recycle.htm.



The Reptiles of Marinette County

By Greg Cleereman, County Conservationist

This year's discussion of the wildlife of Marinette County will focus on reptiles, a group of animals that includes snakes, turtles, and lizards. This month we begin by providing an introduction and general overview. Ten species of snakes, four species of turtles, and one species of lizard call Marinette County home. Reptiles, especially snakes, are an unjustly maligned and underappreciated group. Snakes are important predators that also serve as prey for mammals and birds. Small snakes eat insects and other invertebrates that may be a nuisance. Research has shown that the many small rodents eaten by snakes reduce the incidence of diseases such as Lyme's and the hanta virus.

There are a number of myths about reptiles (especially snakes) that need to be busted. The first is that they are cold and slimy. All reptiles are *ectotherms*, which means their body temperature depends on the temperature around them. The term "cold blooded" is not really accurate, as on a hot day a reptile's blood could be quite warm. Although reptiles do get wet, they are never slimy. Dry scales cover reptilian skin, which are made of keratin - the same substance that forms our hair and fingernails.

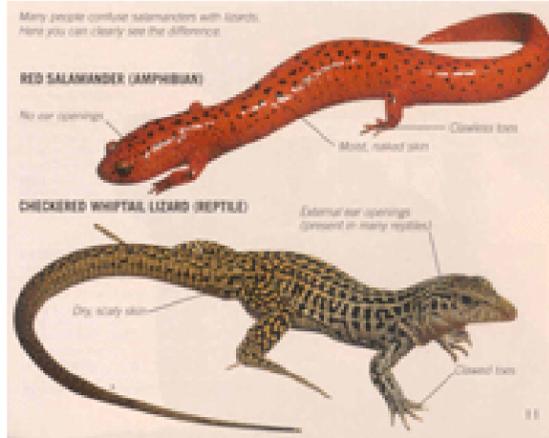
Because some snakes were commonly seen in and around cow barns, some people thought they drank milk. We even have a species called the Eastern Milk Snake. The reason the snakes hung around dairy cattle was that barns were often infested with grain eating rodents, which are in fact the real food source for snakes. Other myths that scientists proved erroneous were that snakes can form hoops to roll away from danger, they have poisonous breath and that they swallow their young in times of danger.



Eastern Milk Snake, courtesy DNR & A.B. Sheldon

REPTILES VS. AMPHIBIANS

Reptiles and amphibians are often mistakenly mixed into one group, although they live very different lives. Reptiles are



Courtesy of the National Audubon Society

internally fertilized before laying shelled eggs in a hole dug by the female or giving birth to live young. Amphibians breed like fish in that eggs and sperm are expelled into the water where they come into contact, and then the eggs are fertilized. Immature amphibians are born into an aquatic gill-breathing phase before they metamorphose into adult frogs and salamanders, whereas reptiles are born as lung-breathing, smaller versions of the parents. Amphibians breed every year, while many reptile species don't due to the stress and high energy cost. Reptiles do not need to stay cool and moist as amphibians do, and in fact often bask in the sun to warm up. Reptile skin is covered with scales and dry, while amphibian skin is soft and moist, and the toes of reptiles end in claws instead of being blunt as in amphibians.



Turtle hatchling, courtesy DNR & Dan Nedrelo

There are some similarities, however. Both amphibians and reptiles are generally carnivorous. Oddly enough, they are important prey and predators of each other. Another area of agreement between reptiles and amphibians is the need to hibernate during the winter. Turtles generally hibernate singly under water. They are able to absorb all the oxygen they need from the water through the linings of their mouths and throats, their skin, and thin-walled sacks called *bursae* in their cloacae. The *cloaca* - a structure found only in reptiles, amphibians, and birds - is an internal chamber that receives and discharges reproductive materials and body waste. Snakes tend to hibernate communally in underground *hibernacula*. In areas where suitable hibernation spots are scarce, hundreds of snakes may spend the winter together. Both groups, including turtles, shed their skin. Shedding is triggered by body growth and scale wear. Even the skin

over the eyes is shed, giving the eye a milky, opaque appearance during that time.

PHYSIOLOGY

For many people, the only chance to see turtles is when they are basking in the sun on logs or other debris. There are several reasons they do this. A warmer body digests food better. The sun also provides vitamin D, which aids in absorbing calcium, an important part of their shells and eggs. Drying out the shell also retards the growth of algae and bacteria.

For all of our reptiles, coloration is important for blending into their surroundings, both to eat and to avoid being eaten. Snakes especially use skin color and pattern to avoid being seen. Their scales take the abuse of crawling on the abrasive ground and provide traction. The most common way snakes move is "undulatory" locomotion where the "belly" of the snake stays on the ground and the forward push is provided by the back edge of each curve in the body. There is also the "sidewinder" method used on sand, "slide pushing" used on low friction surfaces like mud, and rectilinear or "caterpillar" locomotion. This last method has minimal visible movement and is used for stalking prey. Although snakes can turn very sharply, they cannot move backwards.

The layout of internal organs and type of body structures determine how the reptile uses its habitat. For example, turtle shells are designed for protection on land and maneuverability in the water; consequently, their speed on land maxes out at about 0.3 miles per hour. In water they move relatively quickly and can "turn on a dime." The long slim bodies of snakes allow them to enter burrows and move through tight spaces to reach prey or cover.

Most reptiles have closed circulation via a three-chamber heart (our hearts have four chambers) consisting of two atria and one, variably-partitioned ventricle. In spite of this, because of the fluid dynamics of blood flow through the heart, there is little mixing of oxygenated and deoxygenated blood in the three-chamber heart. Furthermore, the blood flow can be altered to shunt either deoxygenated blood to the body or oxygenated blood to the lungs, which gives the animal greater control over its blood flow, allowing more effective temperature regulation and longer diving times for aquatic species.

DIET

Many reptiles and all snakes are carnivores, or meat eaters. A majority of lizards eat insects, while most snakes eat smaller vertebrates, including birds, rodents, fish, amphibians, and other reptiles. For many snakes, bird and reptile eggs are a tasty delicacy. Some turtles, such as the painted turtles, are omnivores—animals that eat both plants and animals. Carnivorous reptiles vary greatly in their means of securing prey. Some aquatic turtles ambush prey with a rapid thrust of their long necks while drawing water into their mouths to suck in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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 - just contact Anne at awarren@marinettecounty.com or call her at 715-732-7784.



Who You Gonna Call?

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



Scott Reuss, UW-Extension Agriculture & Horticulture Agent
1926 Hall Ave., Marinette WI 54143
(715) 732-7518
Email: sreuss@marinettecounty.com

What are your major duties as the UWEX Agriculture & Horticulture Agent?

By definition, my primary duty is educating adults and youth mostly in the area of plant management and agricultural/farm management. My counterpart in Oconto County deals mainly with dairy and livestock issues, so this dual-county arrangement allows me to focus more on plant management issues throughout Marinette, Oconto, and Florence Counties. In addition to education programming, I spend about a third of my time with the public to help them with individual agriculture or horticulture issues and problems. I also help manage Harmony Arboretum and demonstration farm plots for public consultations and presentations.

What are your favorite and least favorite part(s) of the job?

My favorite part of the job is seeing how people react when we solve their specific horticulture problem, like a plant pest infestation. Also I like helping farms in particular, because economically they are very important. My least favorite part is the administrative portion – as the Department Head I have to be very meticulous in record-keeping and paperwork, and it takes away time I could be spending on education efforts.

What are some of the most common problems you help the public deal with?

Plant pest identification and management is the single most common issue I deal with, be it for forests, gardens, or crops. I make suggestions and help advise people on how to identify pests, how to manage their problem areas, what kinds of controls they can use, and what options they have for fixing their problem.

What are some resources the public can use to help them learn more about agriculture & horticulture topics or issues?

There is a wealth of information on the internet, but of course you have to make sure it's accurate. Marinette County's UW-Extension site (www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/marinette) has a plethora of plant management and other information, as well as links to other sites. Agriculture & horticulture publications are also available on the UW-Extension site (<http://learningstore.uwex.edu>). We are an "information gateway" for the public, so if they can't find what they are looking for, we can point them in the right direction or answer questions they may have. If we don't know the answer to a particular question, we usually know whom to contact in order to get the problem solved.

Why is it important for people to have access to the type of non-biased information that UW-Extension provides?

One of the things I hold dear is helping people examine the breadth of options they have when making plant/pest management

decisions. I want people to think about how to expand their options, whether it's looking at biological versus chemical controls for pest management or something as simple as choosing the right plants for an area. I want them to make the best choice not only for themselves, but also for the surroundings – choices that not only meet their goals, but also are good for the health of the environment and any long-term goals. If people know they have options, they can try different things and multiple approaches to plant and pest management.

Spring Wildflower Walk at Harmony Arboretum

Do you enjoy the colorful sight of spring flowers? If so, come out to the Harmony Hardwoods Memorial Forest on Saturday, May 17 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. for a guided tour of the spring wildflowers with local nature enthusiasts. Although they are usually small and subtle, their variety and beauty is worth exploring. Walkers may see wildflowers such as bloodroot, Dutchman's breeches, and marsh marigolds. These, and many other spring wildflowers, usually remain only a few weeks, so enjoy them while they last!

Harmony Arboretum is located just south of Hwy 64 on County E about 7 miles west of Marinette. For more information, call the Land & Water Conservation office at 715-732-7780 or visit us online at www.marinettecounty.com.



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 an extra look at the photo subject!



To enter, send us 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 June 10, 2008.**



Congratulations to Linda Goldschmidt of Wausaukee for winning the drawing in last September's "Where in Marinette County" contest! This is the old McAllister train depot, located on the corner of highway 180 and Old Rail Road in the town of Stephenson.



Tree & Shrub Selection for Your Landscape

By Scott Reuss, UW-Extension Agriculture & Horticulture Agent

The purchase of a tree or shrub is a long-term commitment, and one that should be well planned before making your selections. Of course, timing should also be taken into account. In general, the earlier you can get new trees planted in the spring, the better they will perform. After late May or early June it may be better to wait until early September to plant, so that your newly planted specimens don't need to try and survive the hot, dry conditions of midsummer.

When making an actual selection, choose plants that appear healthy, are not spindly in appearance, and have managed well in the nursery/garden center from which you are purchasing. There are many guides or articles available to help you in all the steps of selecting, purchasing, and planting, including materials from sources like UW-Extension, DNR, the Arbor Day Foundation, and the Arborists' Association. However, for long term health and enjoyment of your woody perennial, there are some definite key points which you need to consider prior to making a purchase:

1. Your Aesthetic Interests

If you aren't happy with what you select after it begins maturing, the other points become meaningless. In some cases, this topic is replaced by 'Your Planting Purpose' (i.e. if it is a fruit tree, a wildlife tree, etc.) but for landscape plants, aesthetics is the key factor. There are many particulars to think through within this overall topic, including:

A. Mature Height. All species of shrubs and trees have a predictable mature height range. Within that range, closer planting and/or better soils lead to greater heights, whereas poor soils and/or lots of room around it lead to lower mature heights.

B. Leaves. The leaf characteristics to consider include size, shape, growing season color, fall color, and cleanup ability (i.e. do they mulch easily, rake easily, etc.).

C. Flowering. Does the tree or shrub flower? If so, the other important questions are what time of the year does it flower; how aromatic are the blooms; what color are the blooms; how long do the blooms last; how many years before it starts blooming; what size are the blooms, etc.?

D. "Fitting-in" factor. How does the new plant fit in with the rest of your current landscape? You want to select plants that complement or contrast, but not clash, with what you currently have.

2. Hardiness

This may be your primary criterion for selecting your plant. The growing zone that you live in dictates what you can plant and maintain for its mature life. When in doubt, always select plants that are hardier than your zone. But, don't be afraid to push to one higher zone, as long as you have the right spot for the plant and are willing to give it extra care and management time. *Provenance* is also important. Provenance

is where the plant originated from within its total growing range. Essentially, this means buy plants that were grown at nurseries in cold climates such as ours, rather than in southern or west coast nurseries.

3. Native or Invasive Species

In a perfect world, we would be able to find native, noninvasive plants that fit the aesthetic and hardiness characteristics that we want. Why? Simply stated, they need less care and create less work for us. *Whether for your own sake, your neighbors', or the native habitat in your area, strongly consider NOT selecting nonnative invasive species to plant in your landscapes.* In particular, some problematic trees or shrubs include the Norway Maple, many of the buckthorns and honeysuckles, and the Japanese Barberry.

4. Pest Resistance/Tolerance

You create less management for yourself in the future if you select species that have fewer insect and disease problems. Conversely, if a certain species you really want to grow does have major pest problems, check on the availability of resistant cultivars that tolerate those pests better than the main species.

5. Growing Site Characteristics

This includes soil type, drainage of the soil, depth to water, sunlight availability, soil fertility, wind, presence of frost pockets, and other site characteristics.



6. Your Management Interest/Ability

You can save yourself a lot of work by selecting trees and shrubs that don't need much assistance to get through life and look good. Some species usually require more shaping and pruning assistance than other similarly shaped species. Proper height selection is critical, as it is much more work trying to constantly prune a shrub to fit a space vs. selecting a shrub that will naturally fit the space.

7. Availability/Price

If you desire something that is new or hard to find, start your searching and ordering early. Also remember that the first few years a plant is available, they often have higher price tag values, because there are fewer of them being grown.

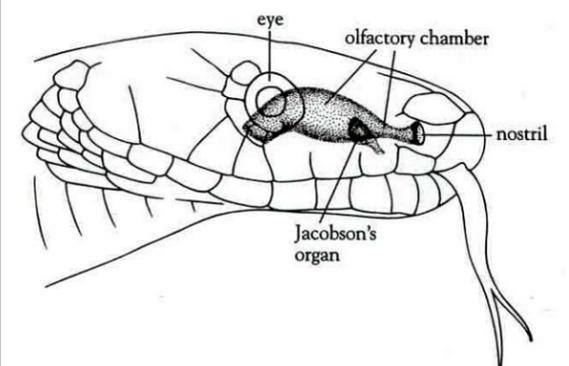
8. Speed of Growth

When trying to fill space quickly, it is nice to get fast-growing species. The down side is that those species have shorter lives, have

weaker wood (leading to more storm damage, more branch dropping, etc.) and often require more pruning and other care. You may think of other criteria, but thinking through the above, in whatever order makes sense to you, should improve the results of your plant selection. The same criteria apply to mail orders, local nursery purchases, or orders through the Menominee and/or Dickinson County Conservation District Annual Tree Sales. If you want more information on plant selection, or any other horticultural issue, contact Scott or Linda at the Marinette County UW-Extension office by phone at 715-732-7510 or e-mail your questions to scott.reuss@ces.uwex.edu. You can also visit the UW-Extension website at <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/marinette> to read many other horticultural topic articles.

REPTILES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

the prey. Many snakes, such as Fox and Milk snakes, are constrictors - they strike and grasp their prey, throwing coils of their body around it to kill it by suffocation before swallowing it whole. Nearly all snakes can dislocate their jaws to swallow prey far larger than their own heads. Venomous snakes strike out and bite their prey, injecting them with venom. Instead of struggling (and risking injury) with the prey as the venom takes effect, these snakes often release the doomed animals and track their dying prey using their sense of smell and a special organ in their mouths called the *Jacobson's Organ*.



Location of the Jacobson's Organ, from Zug & Ernst's *Snakes in Question*, 1996.

SENSES

Neither snakes nor turtles hear very well, though they can feel some sounds of lower frequency through vibrations - turtles also can feel vibrations in the water. Lizards, unlike snakes, have external ear openings. Snakes use their tongue to catch odor particles, which are transferred to a special olfactory chamber called the Jacobson's Organ inside its mouth - so when a snake flicks its tongue at you, it's just "smelling" you. Snakes use their sense of smell to find other snakes for breeding or to track down food; this is important when you are very close to the ground where vegetation and topography can make seeing any distance quite difficult.

Next month we will take a look at individual reptile species in greater depth, beginning with turtles and lizards. For more general information about Wisconsin's reptiles, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/herps/what.htm> (DNR) or the Wisconsin Herpetological Society online at <http://www.madison.com/communities/whs/>.



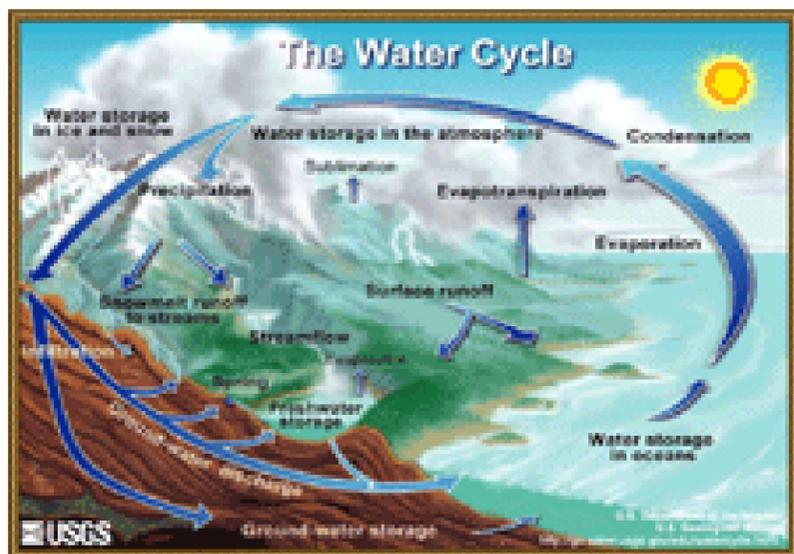
Where Does all that Rainwater Go? Watersheds and the Hydrologic Cycle

By Kendra Axness, UW-Extension Basin Educator

After a very snowy winter and a somewhat rainy spring, you may have noticed that your yard or farmland is very soggy. What happens to all that melting snow and rainwater? And why does it matter?

Earth's water is all connected by the hydrologic cycle.

Rainwater falls onto the ground, and either soaks into the ground ("infiltrates") or flows over the surface of the land. Water that flows over the land surface is called "runoff" and flows to storm drains, ditches, streams, and lakes. Water evaporating from surface water bodies later returns to the earth as rainfall. Trees draw water from the soil and return it to the atmosphere in a process called "transpiration."

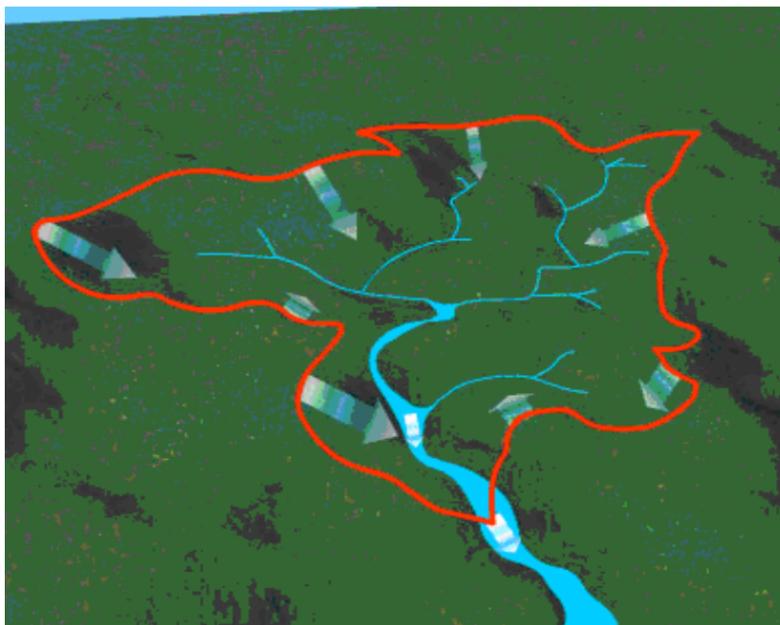


Surface water & groundwater are connected in the hydrologic cycle. Water that soaks into the ground can be stored there as groundwater, which is water that fills the spaces between rock and soil particles underneath the land surface. When groundwater meets the land surface, it flows out and helps keep rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands filled with water. Groundwater also provides many people with drinking water.

The hydrologic cycle operates within watersheds.

A *watershed* is the land area that drains into a stream, river, lake, or wetland. Watersheds occur at different scales, so some watersheds are very large while others are very small. For example, Lake Michigan, the Peshtigo River, and Trout Creek each have their own watersheds. Watershed boundaries are defined by topography. Since water always flows downhill, the points of highest elevation around a water body will define its watershed. A very large watershed is sometimes referred to as a "basin."

Wherever you go, you are in a watershed. If you stand on a spot on the Marinette County fair grounds in Wausaukee, you will be in the Great Lakes, Lake Michigan, Menominee River, and Wausaukee River watersheds all at the same time!



Watersheds are important because what happens to the land and water in the upper part of the watershed affects water quality downstream - linking all of the watershed's residents together in managing and protecting their water resources.

We Need Healthy Watersheds.

The various processes of the hydrologic cycle improve water quality and sustain water quantity when they operate in a natural landscape. Runoff is less able to erode streambanks and transport pollutants to surface water bodies if it is slowed by vegetation. Rainwater is cleansed as it soaks into the ground and moves through the subsurface. Infiltrating rainwater fills up, or recharges, the aquifers (groundwater-storing soil and rocks) that provide us with drinking water. It also reduces the quantity of runoff, which in turn reduces flooding and erosion. By maintaining the watershed's natural hydrologic properties, we ensure that we have plenty of clean drinking water, clean lakes and rivers to swim and fish in, and less flood damage to homes and businesses.

Land Use Affects Watershed Health.

The way water moves through the hydrologic cycle is different in a developed landscape than in a natural landscape. When we build new houses and roads, we influence how water flows in the watershed. Our roofs, sidewalks, driveways and roads are impervious surfaces, which means that water cannot soak through them. These impervious surfaces increase surface runoff and decrease infiltration. The surface runoff flows either directly into lakes and rivers or into storm drains, which ultimately discharge into nearby surface water bodies. This stormwater is usually **not** treated before discharging into the same lakes and streams we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water. Human activities can affect the watershed even when infiltration is able to occur. For example, groundwater can be contaminated by rainwater infiltrating through materials such as nitrogen fertilizer that are applied to the land surface, or by substances such as gasoline or septage that leak from underground tanks.

Why should you care if there's more runoff?

Water quality and quantity are significantly affected by the amounts of surface runoff and infiltration that occur in a watershed. Runoff can carry pollutants, such as fertilizer, sediment particles, bacteria, and motor oil, to surface water bodies. These pollutants harm streams and lakes by promoting weed growth, damaging fish spawning habitat, and making the water unhealthy for swimmers and anglers. Water flows faster through storm drains and over impervious surfaces than it does over vegetation. This means that when it rains in developed watersheds, water levels rise very quickly in streams, resulting in more erosion of their banks. Increased runoff volume also puts more homes and businesses at risk of flooding.

Why should you care if there's less infiltration?

Reduced infiltration means that there is less precipitation reaching groundwater, and aquifer recharge is limited. This can affect homeowners' drinking water wells. Usually, one aquifer is used by many homes and businesses to provide drinking water. The water withdrawn through wells will not be replaced unless the aquifer is recharged by infiltrating rainwater and snowmelt. Eventually, wells can dry up, forcing users to drill deeper wells. Many lakes and rivers also rely on inflowing groundwater to sustain their water levels. If water levels become sufficiently low, the ability of these water bodies to sustain aquatic organisms might be harmed, and boaters might experience difficulty accessing piers and landings.

What can we do to keep our watersheds healthy?

There are a number of things that we can all do to help keep our watersheds healthy, including the following:

- Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks and roads.
- Never dump anything down storm drains.
- Check your car for leaks, and recycle motor oil.
- Pick up pet waste.
- Encourage infiltration by directing downspouts away from paved surfaces, or by building a rain garden.
- Use a rain barrel to catch and store water for gardens.
- Advocate for preservation of green spaces (parks, forests, stream corridors, etc.) in your community.
- Encourage community leaders and planners to develop land use plans that consider watershed health and provide for adequate stormwater management.



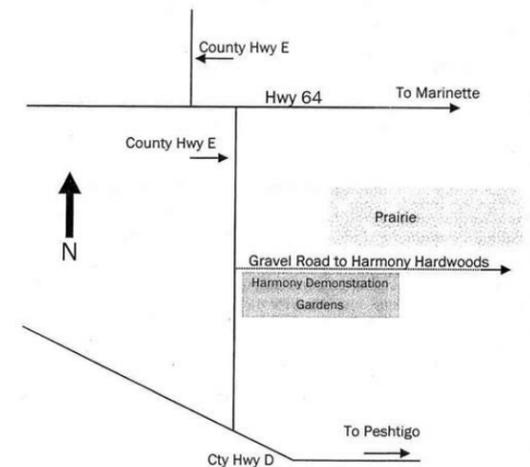
Area Events Calendar

- May 17** **Menominee Animal Shelter Super Spring Raffle.** Menominee VFW, \$20 ticket admits 2 people, food and beverages are included. Prizes awarded throughout the evening, bucket raffles and 50/50 raffles. Tickets: MAS 864-7297 or Julie 735-9964.
- May 26** **Peshtigo Fire Museum.** Memorial Day-October 8. Hours: 9am-5pm daily, free admission, donations accepted. 715-582-3244.
- May 26** **Amberg Museum & Crivitz Area Museum.** Memorial Day-Labor Day. *Amberg Museum:* Saturdays & Sundays, 11am-4pm. Tours by appointment. Free admission. 715-759-5672. *Crivitz Museum:* Wednesday-Saturday, 12-4p.m. or by appointment; call 715-854-3278.
- May 26** **Marinette County Historical/Logging Museum.** Memorial Day-September. Open 10am-4:30pm Monday-Friday, 12-4pm Sundays. Admission: \$2 for adults, \$1 for ages 12 - 17, and free to children when accompanied by an adult. Tour groups by appointment 715-732-0831.
- May 31** **Clean Boats, Clean Waters Workshop.** Stephenson Town Hall from 9am-1pm. Registration is required. See page 3 for more information.
- June-August** **Bands At Badger Park.** Free musical entertainment, 6:30- 8:30pm. Concessions available beginning at 5:30pm. Sponsored by Peshtigo Women's Club. Call (715) 582-0566 for more information and schedule.
- June-August** **Concerts in the Park.** Free concerts, Thursday evenings at the Great Lakes Memorial Marina Park in Menominee, MI. Contact the Marinette Area Chamber of Commerce at (715) 735-6681 or (800) 236-6681.
- June-August** **Sunset Concert Series.** Tuesday evenings at 7pm at Stephenson Island - contact the Marinette Area Chamber of Commerce at (715) 735-6681 or (800) 236-6681.
- June 7** **Aquatic Invasive Species Workshop.** Stephenson Town Hall from 9am-1pm. Registration begins at 8:30am. See page 3 for more information.
- June 8** **Open House at Governor Thompson State Park.** 10am-3pm. Cookout luncheon and refreshments provided by Friends of Governor Thompson State Park. Free admission. Call 715-757-3979.
- June 14** **Interstate Stock and Custom Car Show,** Stephenson Island - Free to the public; \$5.00 entry fee for show vehicles. Registration 7-11am. Food, live DJ, children's games, over 26 classes. Call 906-863-3036.
- June 14** **Annual Garden Show** sponsored by Cougar Country Business Association at Coleman Park, Business Hwy 141. 9am. 920-591-0342
- June 14-22** **Porterfield Country Music Festival.** Live music, concessions, camping, top name artists. Green's Green Acres, 6 miles west of Marinette off Hwy 64. Call (715) 789-2130 or visit www.countrymusicfestival.com.
- June 19-21** **Sand Lake Conservation Camp.** For youth going into grades 6-10 in fall 2008, \$50 registration fee. Held at Camp Bird near Crivitz. See page 2 for more details.
- June 21** **Aurora MACC Run** sponsored by Aurora Health Care and Marinette-Menominee Chamber of Commerce. 5k run/walk and 10k run. Begins at 8am at Marinette High School. Pre-registration is encouraged. Call 800-236-6681.
- June 27** **American Cancer Society Relay for Life.** Begins 6pm on Friday, June 27 and concludes at 7am on Sat., June 28 at the Marinette High School track. Join in a celebration of life in honor and in memory of those whose lives have been touched by cancer.
- June 29** **13th Annual Art for All.** Great Lakes Memorial Marina Park in Menominee from 10am-5pm. A celebration of art and entertainment featuring an array of unique regional artists of all mediums. Free admission. For more information, call (800) 236-6681.
- June 29** **Menominee River Century Bike Ride.** 8am start at Marinette High School. Sponsored by Bay Area Medical Center. Pre-registration required. Call 800-236-6681 or visit www.mrccride.com.
- July 4-5** **Area 4th of July Celebrations.** Marinette, Crivitz, Goodman, Wausaukee. For more information, call local city hall or visit the county calendar at www.marinettecounty.com.

Harmony Arboretum Detour

This summer work on the Peshtigo River Bridge west of Marinette will require a detour through Peshtigo to get to Harmony Arboretum. Traffic will be detoured during construction following US 41, WI 64, County B, and County E.

To get to Harmony Arboretum from Peshtigo, take County B onto County D. You will then take County E north and Harmony Arboretum will be on the right side of the road. Construction is expected to start June 18 and continue until November.



There will also be a detour for work on the Little Peshtigo River Bridge. Traffic will be detoured during construction following US 141, WI 64, County P, and County W. This work is expected to take place from mid-May through November.

For more information about work zones, travel, and a map of 2008 Wisconsin road construction projects, visit WI Department of Transportation's "Travel Easy" website at <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/travel/traveasy/index.htm>.



½ mile south of Hwy 64, on County E

Extension : 715-732-7510

Land Information Office: 715-732-7780

<http://www.marinettecounty.com>

HARMONY ARBORETUM SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(Located 7 miles west of Marinette, ½ mile south of State Highway 64 on County E. All programs are free unless otherwise stated.)

- May 17: Spring Wildflower Walk, 9:30-11:30 a.m.** – Join volunteer nature enthusiast Howard Lorenz for a guided tour of spring wildflowers in the Harmony Hardwoods. For more information, call the Land Information Office at 715-732-7780.
- May 24: Plant Sale, 9:00 a.m. to noon** – Wide selection of plants grown by Northern Lights Master Gardeners. All funds raised for education programs.
- May 31: Lawn Care - Weed Control & Fertilizing, 10:00 a.m. to noon** – Scott Reuss, UWEX Horticulture Agent, will help participants identify and manage lawn weeds. Fertilizer selection, application, and timing will be the other topic of this event. Call 715-732-7510 for more information.
- June 14: Birding Hike, 6:00-8:00 a.m.** – Take a guided hike with Greg Cleereman, County Conservationist and recreational birder, through the Harmony Hardwoods to view and hear many different species of birds. For more information, call the Land Information Office at 715-732-7780.
- July 2: Lawn Care - Managing Healthy Lawns, 7:00-9:00 p.m.** – Reuss will detail the real needs of your turf grass areas, to allow for more efficient irrigation, mowing, pesticide use, and your own time. Call 715-732-7510 for more information.

