



CONSERVATION CHRONICLE

Newsletter of the Land Conservation Department

To promote the awareness of Sauk County's natural resources and to provide technical assistance for their productive use, enhancement, and preservation.

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Clean Sweep Program in June!

Do you have hazardous wastes lurking in the dusty corners of your garage, shed, or basement? Sauk County residents with unused chemicals, oil-based paint, waste oil, or medications can dispose of them in a safe and environmentally sound manner at a Clean Sweep Program at the Sauk County Landfill, E8795B Evergreen Lane (between Baraboo and Reedsburg off Hwy. 33) on Saturday, June 12, from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. The program is being offered through the Land Conservation Department and funded by Sauk County and a state grant. There will be no charge for disposal at the event.

Improper storage or disposal of hazardous chemicals can pollute our waters and cause health risks for everyone. Most household products are not a problem but they can become hazardous if used, stored, or disposed of improperly. One of the best ways to avoid the problem of disposing of hazardous waste is to purchase some of the "eco-friendly" alternatives being offered. Another suggestion is to make your own cleaning supplies using common kitchen products. For example, baking soda can be used for cleaning, deodorizing, etc. Use white vinegar to cut grease, remove mildew, odors, some stains, and wax buildup. These materials are both cheaper to use and better for the environment.

Among the waste being accepted are unused prescription drugs. Studies show that disposal of these drugs by flushing into sewers or septic systems is polluting both ground and surface waters. By taking advantage of this safe and secure disposal at

the Clean Sweep, they will not be polluting our water as well as being safe from any potential abuse.

Oil-based paints will be accepted for disposal but because latex paint is non-hazardous, it can be disposed of as a solid with your regular trash. Never dispose of liquid paints in your trash. Several methods to properly solidify latex paint are listed below:

below:

- Remove the lid and let the paint dry out in the can. This only works when an inch or less of paint is left in the can and is most effective in warmer months.
- For larger volumes of latex paint, line a cardboard box with a plastic bag. Add an absorbing agent such as kitty litter, sawdust, or shredded newspaper to the box. Pour the paint into the box so that it forms a thin layer (about 1 inch deep) and allow the paint to harden. Repeat this process until all of the paint has hardened.



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- Mix paint with an equal amount of cat litter, stir in completely, and allow to dry.
- Mix latex paint with a latex paint hardener, stir, and allow to harden.

The 2010 Clean Sweep event will not accept tires, appliances, electronics, batteries, and propane cylinders. There are many alternative disposal locations that take these items. If you need suggestions on where to dispose of these items, contact the Land Conservation Department (LCD).

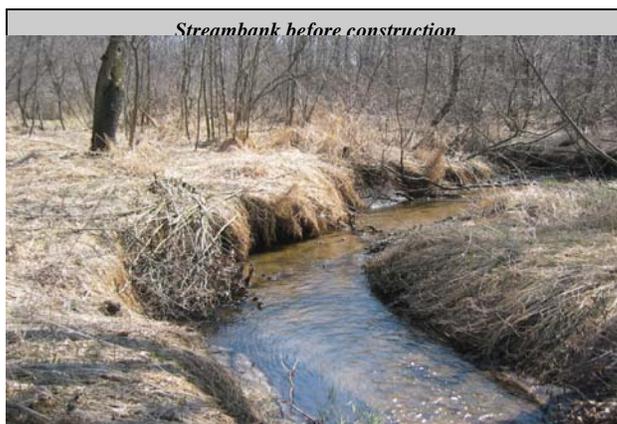
For more information regarding the Sauk County Clean Sweep Program, contact the Land Conservation Department at 355-3245 or ppohle@co.sauk.wi.us.

LWRM Program Signup

If your farm has a problem with erosion along a stream, a gully that keeps advancing, polluted runoff flowing from animal lots, or some other conservation issue to address, please call the Land Conservation Department now to sign up for the Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Program. Staff from the Department will then review your proposed project, propose the appropriate conservation practices, and determine eligibility for the state cost-share program.

The county will accept applications all year, but the sooner you make a request, the sooner your project will be ranked and offered a contract if funds are available. We have addressed most of the requests from the 2008 flood damage and now have funds available for additional projects. All projects are rated according to the guidelines identified in our Land and Water Resource Management Plan. The scoring is based upon the type of practice needed, the rate of erosion, sediment and phosphorus runoff to water resources, the need to protect structures

such as roadways or cropfields, fisheries or wildlife values, and cost. The score will be used to rank your project against others that request funding assistance.



This program requires compliance with all Department of Natural Resources (DNR) NR NR151 prohibitions and standards. Staff will evaluate the farms for compliance with these state rules at the same time they score your project. This evaluation allows the LCD to identify other resource concerns that may exist on the property and set cost-share assistance aside to help with those projects over the next few years.

Once a cost-share contract has been signed, staff will survey and engineer the appropriate practice. If your application includes streambank protection, it is important to sign up as soon as possible. This will allow time to obtain the

needed permits for these projects. To download a LWRM application form, go to www.co.sauk.wi.us/_forms/lcd_lwrn_app.pdf or contact office.

Baraboo River Update

Eight years after the removal of the last dams on the Baraboo River, the river is showing constant improvement. The removal of the dams was a major contribution to the improved conditions but a lot of the credit also goes to all of the farm operators with land in the river's watershed. Over 450 farms installed runoff control practices through the Crossman Creek - Little Baraboo River and the Narrows Creek - Baraboo River Priority Watershed Projects. Those practices reduced the amount of phosphorus reaching the river by 60 percent. They also reduced the amount of sediment entering the river by 50 percent. Many farms also installed stream habitat improvement projects along with the pollution control practices.

The reduction in nutrients and sediment has resulted in clearer water, less weed and algae growth, more visibility, and more oxygen in the river. This has improved habitat for game fish like walleye, northern, and small mouth bass. This improved water quality allowed DNR to remove the Baraboo River from the list of impaired water resources in 2002.

In 2009, as part of the research regarding dam removals, the DNR Fishery Research Team did a study of fish populations in the river. Comparing their results with sampling done before dam removal showed the benefits of these projects. The research shows both a greater variety of species and a significant increase in numbers for game fish. The DNR Fishery research reports an exceptional number of small to medium-sized

small mouth bass and good numbers of legal sized fish.

Dam removal has allowed the river to flow more rapidly through the former impoundment areas. This rapid flow has scoured out the sediment load that previously covered valuable riffle habitat. The scouring has also deepened and narrowed the channel resulting in more open water. One species, the gizzard chad, a fish rarely found before dam removal, has gone through a population explosion. Because chad are sensitive to temperature, they

experience a die off when temperatures drop rapidly at the start of winter. The combination of an easy food source and open water has attracted numerous wintering eagles. The Christmas bird count in the Baraboo area recorded over 80 bald eagles along the river.



Over 80 bald eagles were recorded along the river this winter

The DNR is now considering the introduction of sturgeon back into the Baraboo River.

This species was historically present in the river, but the construction of the dams in the 1880s prevented their travel upstream for spawning. Because sturgeon imprint on a stream, the hope is that the introduction of young hatchlings which will grow and mature in the river will eventually lead to a return of sturgeon runs as in the past and bring this prehistoric native species back to some of its native waters.

DNR is planning to return to perform more fish surveys in 2010 and again in 2015 and 2016 to monitor progress. Hopefully with continued good land management decisions by both rural and urban landowners, we will continue to see a steady improvement in both water quality and the fishery.

***Remember to order your trees and prairie seeds by
March 31! Contact the LCD at 355-3245.***

New State Laws Address Invasive Species

The spread of invasive species is getting increased attention these days both locally and statewide. Stories about Asian carp threatening the fishery in the Great Lakes, emerald ash borer quarantines in nearby counties, the first gypsy moth spraying of private lands in Sauk County, and the discovery of zebra mussels in Lake Wisconsin all bring concerns about the spread of invasive species closer to home.

Recognizing the growing problem caused by invasive species, the legislature directed the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish statewide rules, focusing on the existing invasive species that threaten Wisconsin's economy and ecosystems and on preventing the introduction of new species that may be approaching but are not yet established in the state.

DNR worked with dozens of stakeholder groups and the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species to develop the rule, which classifies invasive species, both plants and animals, into two categories, "Restricted Species" and "Prohibited Species."

The rule also establishes regulations people must follow for each of the listed species. They also include preventative measures people must take to avoid accidentally spreading any invasive species. These measures complement existing statutes and rules that address the movement of firewood,

disposal of bait minnows, removal of aquatic vegetation from boats and trailers, and other actions that could spread invasives.

The next phase of this effort will be to develop Best Management Practices for various land uses. Best Management Practices will be developed for forestry, recreational forestry use, urban forestry and transportation and utility right of ways.



Zebra mussels have been discovered in Lake Wisconsin



Asian carp are threatening the fishery in the Great Lakes

For more information on the new rules or managing invasive species on your lands, visit the Wisconsin DNR website at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/invasives> or the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin website at <http://www.ipaw.org>

"Restricted species" are invasive species that are already too widespread to realistically expect they can be eradicated or contained but the goal is to slow the spread. It is illegal for people to transport, import, transfer, sell, or introduce "restricted species," but people may possess restricted species with the exception of fish and crayfish.

"Prohibited species" are not yet in the state or only exist in small populations but have the potential to cause significant damage if they are allowed to spread and become established. The goal is to contain their spread, so it is illegal for people to transport, import, possess, transfer, sell, or introduce "Prohibited Species," with some minor exceptions.

Where Is This?



If you recognize where this is located, send us your answer along with your name, address, and phone number by April 23 to the following address: Sauk County LCD, 505 Broadway, Baraboo, WI 53913. One winner will be drawn from the correct answers and will receive a Farm & Fleet gift certificate.

Congratulations to Daniel Licht for correctly identifying the McCoy School located on McCoy Road in LaRue. Janice Bergman wrote in that her 97-year-old mother Edith Ulrich

attended that school. On the day World War I ended, each child took a turn at ringing the school bell so to have the bell ring all of the school day.



McCoy School

Sauk County
Earth Day
Energy Fair
Sunday,
April 25, 2010
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
UW Baraboo/Sauk County Campus
1006 Connie Road, Baraboo
-FREE-
More than 40 hands-on
fun demonstrations!
Door prizes!
Free Samples!

WOODLAND SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

Introduction to Prescribed Fire
Thursday-Friday, March 25-26
8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Wetland Management
Saturday, April 10
9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Birding the Important Bird Area
Saturday, May 8
7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

*For more information and to register, visit
www.aldoleopold.org/woodlandschool or call
Alanna Koshollek at 355-0279.*

For more information call 355-3245 or visit
www.baraboorange.org/scearthday.html about
the Sauk County Earth Day Energy Fair!

INVESTIGATING FURTHER:

Carbon Credits



Carbon Credits: A New Source of Income from Your Woodlands

Carbon Credits are a potential new way for woodland owners to generate income from their land. It is the first tangible evidence that society values the "services" that your woodlands provide and that there are individuals and organizations out there that are willing to pay you to grow trees, also known as sequestering carbon dioxide, as a means to impact global climate change.

So, how can you as a woodland owner cash in on this potential windfall? First, it is important to understand that we are not talking about large sums of money. A forestry project will only store somewhere between one to five metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) per acre per year, and based on the current market price, the most an owner might receive is about \$9 per acre per year for the length of the contract.

Most woodland owners cannot trade carbon credits directly on the Chicago Climate Exchange because the projects are small and do not generate enough income to cover the administrative costs. Therefore, woodland owners need to work with an Offset Aggregator.

The Aggregator acts as a bridge between the landowner and the Chicago Climate Exchange. They solicit forestry projects that are not large enough to qualify on their own and bundle them together with other projects. It is important to understand that when you sign with an Offset Aggregator, your contract is with that Aggregator and not with the Chicago Climate Exchange directly. The Offset Aggregator is responsible to the Chicago Climate Exchange to administer the project contract, verify that the project information is factual and correct, insure that the project meets Chicago Climate Exchange rules and regulations, make payments to the landowners, and coordinate with Chicago Climate Exchange verifiers.

As a general rule there are two types of projects that qualify as forest carbon sequestration offset projects. The first are tree planting projects on lands that were not previously forested (afforestation) or the planting of trees following a harvest or the restoration of degraded forest lands (reforestation). Only projects that were planted after December 31, 1989 are eligible to qualify. Contracts for these types of projects are based on Carbon Accumulation Tables provided by the Chicago Climate Exchange.

The other type of project eligible for forestry offset credits is forest enrichment projects where carbon accumulation is increased through the implementation of sustainable forest management practices. Contracts for these types of projects are based on a forest inventory and use growth and yield models to estimate the change in growth (additional carbon sequestered) achieved through the practice of sustainable forest management.

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Reminder to Burn Safely

As spring is fast approaching and the snow is melting, the DNR Fire Control staff in Poynette and Spring Green reminds people to burn safely. It is safest to burn when the humidity is high and the wind speeds are down. If your brush pile has the potential to produce a large quantity of smoke, please let the Sauk County Sheriff Department know. The non-emergency number to call is (608) 355-4495. This cuts down on unnecessary fire department and DNR fire response calls.

From January 1 to May 31 burning permits are required **if the ground is not snow covered**. Burning permits may be obtained from a number of Emergency Fire Wardens throughout the county. Permits can also be obtained at the Baraboo Fire Department or from DNR Fire Control staff in Poynette or Spring Green. Burning may only be done after 6 p.m. with a regular permit. If it is necessary to burn during the day, DNR Fire Control staff may write a special permit. Also, any broadcast burning of areas larger than 10 acres or any debris piles larger

than 6' x 6' have to be inspected by DNR Fire Control staff.

Please remember to have fire fighting tools available when burning. Shovels, rakes, and water are a good idea. Do not burn if the winds are stronger than 8 miles an hour, and watch the weather for changing wind conditions. Keep the size of your pile small if possible. If the pile is too large, consider making a separate fire and adding material a little at a time. Fires can holdover in stumps and roots and can be rekindled weeks or even months later. Please make sure your fire is completely out before leaving it. **Never leave your fire unattended.** Remember that you are responsible for the costs and damages if your fire gets away.



If you have any questions regarding burning, location of Emergency Fire Wardens, or permit information, call the DNR Fire Control office in Poynette (for areas east of Hwy. 12) at (608) 635-8121 or the DNR Fire Control office in Spring Green (for areas west of Hwy. 12) at (608) 588-7725.

Thank you to these volunteers for labeling our newsletters!



Edith Fredericks, Judy Gehrke, Betty Wolfrath, Bev Rogers, Marian Licht, LaDell Shimniok, Charlotte Rose, Gail Greve, Barb Opperman, Betty Schultz

(Continued from page 6)(Carbon Credits article)

The process to enroll your lands as a forest carbon sequestration offset project is fairly simple. You need to fill out an application form provided by the Offset Aggregator, show that you have clear title to the land, and show that you are engaged in sustainable forest management. Having a forest stewardship management plan for your property and participating in a Forest Certification Program meet this requirement. Landowners participating in Wisconsin's Managed Forest Law Program would meet both of these requirements.

Next, you will need to calculate the amount of carbon sequestered by your project using either your Aggregator or a consulting forester. The Aggregator is responsible to insure that your application is accurate and that your carbon accumulation calculations are correct. The Chicago Climate Exchange also employs independent third-party verifiers to review project reports, verify active management and maintenance of projects, and insure the accuracy of all information submitted.

Once your application has been submitted, approved, and verified, the forest carbon sequestration offsets from your project are now eligible to be sold on the Chicago Climate Exchange. The contract that you sign with an Aggregator will determine the date of entry and the terms of payment.

The date of entry is not the same as the date your contract is approved.

The Chicago Climate Exchange may be a new source of additional income that many woodland owners can tap into. As interest grows in carbon markets, there will be increasing opportunities to take advantage of marketing forest carbon sequestration offsets from your woodlands.

However, it is important to understand that the Chicago Climate Exchange's current plan allows them to offer contracts through 2010. No decision has been made whether there will be a Phase III that will offer contracts for 2011 and beyond. No one can say for sure what the future holds for the carbon exchange, but there will always be a future in growing trees.

This is the third article in a series of articles about carbon credits and the Chicago Climate Exchange.

The material for this article was gathered from the Chicago Climate Exchange website located online at <http://www.chicagoclimatex.com/> and from the Center for Integrated Natural Resources and Agricultural Management's publication "A Landowner's Guide to Carbon Sequestration Credits." [WWW document]. URL http://www.cinram.umn.edu/publications/landowners_guide1.5-1.pdf

NEWSLETTER IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE!

Would you prefer to receive an electronic copy of future newsletters instead of being mailed one? Please e-mail us at conservation@co.sauk.wi.us if you would. When they are available, we will notify those interested in viewing the newsletter with an e-mail. You will be able to read them online on the county website at www.co.sauk.wi.us This will help us reduce postage costs as well as the amount of paper generated!

The Miracle of Migration

One of the sure signs of our coming spring is the return of migrating birds. It does not matter if you are an avid bird watcher with detailed phenology lists that record the arrival of each species, a person that notices the spring change in a cardinal's song, or someone who takes pleasure seeing the first robin in your front yard, the return of these migrating birds helps us celebrate the end of another winter.

It is amazing how reliable these spring messengers are despite the huge challenges faced in their migration. Will these species survive and this spring tradition continue? Success will require the maintenance of habitat both in their breeding range in Sauk County and throughout their range.

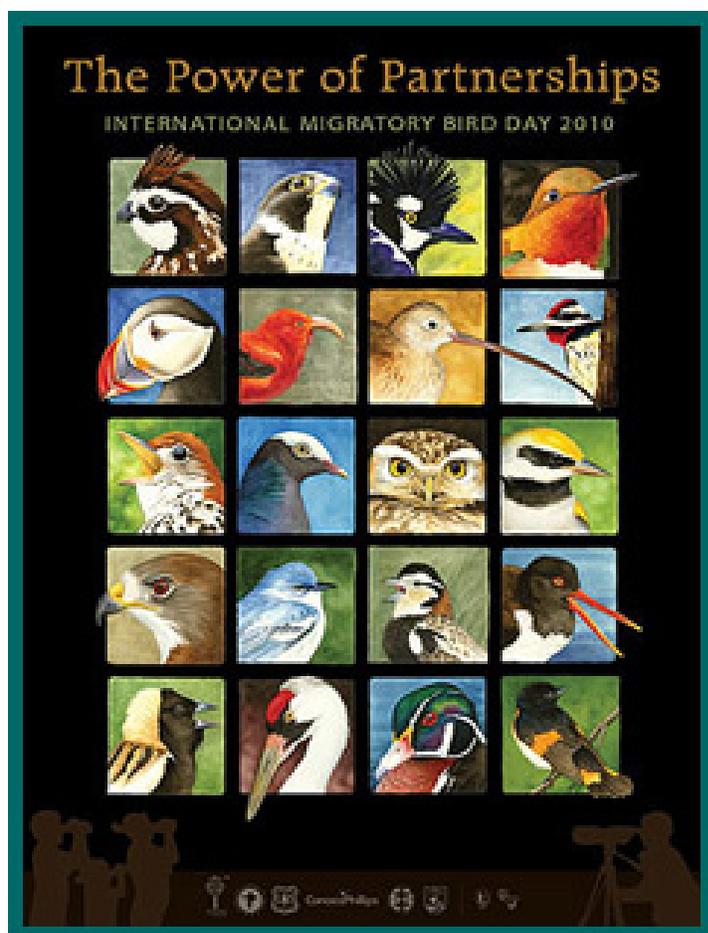
Significant declines in a number of common species is well documented. Since 1966 the numbers of American redstart, white-throated sparrow, and rose-breasted grosbeak have declined approximately 20 percent in Wisconsin. Red-headed woodpeckers, American bitterns, blue-winged teal, eastern towhees, belted kingfisher, golden-winged warblers, veery, bobolinks, Virginia rails, and western meadowlarks all show significant declines over the same period.

Many of our spring and summer birds are only here for a short time, and the need to protect their habitat is critical throughout their range. Loss of habitat anywhere along the migration route can have a significant impact on their success. These scattered habitats along their route are often referred to as "convenience stores" and "supermarkets" as a reference to the purpose they serve to migrating species.

Imagine a two-ounce bird flying 500 miles nonstop across the Gulf of Mexico, and to make it more challenging, flying into a headwind. You can imagine how relieved that bird would be to find a "convenience store" right along the southern Louisiana coast. He may not find the level of nutrition he needs for the longterm, but the snack food that is there may be critical to his survival. The same bird may then fly another leg of his journey into the forests of Missouri where he would stop at the "supermarket" to stock up before continuing the migration to Wisconsin.

The clearing of a rain forest in Nicaragua, the devastation of the coast in Louisiana from hurricane Katrina, expansion of development around the Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri, and the cropping of lands removed from the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in Wisconsin all combine to take a toll on these birds successful migration. To continue to preserve these signs of spring, we have to make sure all of these habitats survive.

This miracle of migration was the topic at a recent Cabin Fever lecture sponsored by the Baraboo Range Preservation Association (BRPA) in Baraboo. The featured speaker, Andy Paulios, works with the DNR leading the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative (WBCI). The goal of the WBCI is to coordinate the efforts of all interested bird groups throughout the bird's range to achieve increased success. To learn what you can do to help preserve bird habitat ,visit www.wisconsinbirds.org



The International Migratory Bird Day 2010 is on May 8. For more information on this event and why to celebrate migratory birds check out <http://www.birdday.org/>

