

## June is Invasive Species Awareness Month

By Darienne McNamara

It's a great month for gardening, camping, fishing and chipping away at house projects—so much to do! This June, also consider celebrating Invasive Species Awareness Month for an afternoon. I wager you'll be glad you did.

Like most worthwhile endeavors, fighting invasives is not easy. They will hold their ground with long stout roots, poke your arms, try to tire you out, even lure you with seductive flowers, but don't be fooled. These plants are the equivalent of a disease on our landscape, cleverly disguised as wildflowers and harmless shrubs. They spread through forests, fields, wetlands and waters, crowding out other plants, and taking a toll on the wildlife, people, and industries that depend on a healthy ecosystem. This translates to billions of dollars lost each year in timber production, crop yields, tourism revenue, and much more.

It sounds bleak, but don't despair.

In the Bad River watershed, our land is only beginning to show the signs of infestation. Only recently

have we seen plants such as garlic mustard, Japanese knotweed, leafy spurge, and others. Of course, we also have our fair share of buckthorn and honeysuckle, two widespread invasive plants.

Want to know if you have invasive species on your property? Check out the DNR website with photos and information at [www.dnr.wi.gov/invasives/plants.asp](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/invasives/plants.asp). You can also contact the Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area, online at [www.northwoodscwma.org](http://www.northwoodscwma.org). The NCWMA is a local group working to address invasive species in Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, and Iron counties, with lots of knowledgeable members who would be thrilled to help others in tackling invasives.

With more eyes on the ground, and a little effort from a lot of people, we can care for the things we love about this watershed. Happy Invasive Species Awareness Month! ♦

—Darienne is Coordinator for the Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area, BRWA water quality volunteer and BRWA Board member. She can be reached at [info@northwoodscwma.org](mailto:info@northwoodscwma.org)



*Invasive garlic mustard carpets the forest floor.*



## First Karen Danielsen Outstanding Stewardship Award Given



Nearly 100 BRWA supporters gathered on Saturday March 27 for the 6th annual Spring for the Water fundraising event. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the first Karen Danielsen Outstanding Stewardship Award to Colleen Matula. Colleen is a founding board member of BRWA, Fundraising and Membership committee member, events planner and long time water quality volunteer. She is also a forest ecologist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in Mellen.

Colleen and Karen were professional comrades, often partnering up at conferences and workshops. Upon receipt of the award, Colleen reminisced about their conversations. "We would always find ourselves talking about what was important—connecting people with their watersheds." In accepting the award, Colleen also put forth a challenge to BRWA supporters to "continue supporting and participating in this great organization." ♦

*Colleen Matula accepts the Karen Danielsen Outstanding Stewardship Award from Karen's husband, Dale Thomas*

## Local Food, Local People, Local Issues — Highlights of the Marengo River Watershed Partnership Project Partners Meeting

By Kevin Brewster

If the topic of interest wasn't enough to lure people to the Grand View Town Hall on the evening of June 3rd, the delicious array of locally-produced food available at the pre-meeting feast certainly was. Salads, hamburgers, buns, cheese and desserts came from local farmers and other watershed residents. Nearly 40 people showed up and participated in a lively and informative meeting.

Matt and Valerie started things off with a review of the Marengo River Watershed Partnership (MRWP) Project and progress towards developing a watershed action plan for the Marengo River.

Next, Ruth Oppedahl from the UW-Extension introduced a panel of watershed residents to discuss the central theme of the meeting—local people and local issues. They each shared their unique perspective on what living in the watershed meant, what issues were important in its future, and addressed the question: “What do you do to protect land and water?”

The first speaker was Morgan Peck, a dairy farmer near Highbridge. At the core of Morgan and his wife Caryl's desire to run dairy operation that will “leave something better than when we started.” For example, cows are kept well away from the river to prevent degradation of the banks and channel. Nutrient management is a big part of lessening the impact of livestock operations, and the Peck's approach includes paying close attention to slope severity in areas where manure is spread, and timing spreading to avoid rain-driven nutrient runoff.

Doyle Blakeman, a local logger living near Marengo, then discussed the development of low-impact logging services he provides to Ashland and Bayfield county clients. Since 2001, when he left farming to begin logging, Doyle has strived to reduce negative impacts of his operation through close adherence to the Wisconsin DNR's Best Management Practices (BMPs). This is a set of voluntary guidelines that have been developed to lessen environmental damage associated with logging, including soil compaction, non-harvested tree damage, and erosion.

The final panel speaker was Pam Dryer, a landowner in the Town of Lincoln. Pam and husband Mark live on 278 acres along the Marengo River, where they garden, harvest apples, hunt, ski, hike and gather wood for heating. In spite of this close connection to their property, Pam's first remark was that she was “truly humbled” by the people who had spoken before her, “people who make their livings directly from the land.” The Dryers have worked to protect their land in a number of ways, such as hiring a consulting forester to set up a land management plan, taking into consideration erosion control and invasive species management, and are seriously considering a conservation easement through the Bayfield Regional



Scenes from the Marengo River Watershed Partnership Project Partners Meeting

Conservancy to protect their land into the future.

Howard Sibbald, chair of the Town of Grand View, also offered some interesting information about the township's relationship to the Marengo River: There are 20 miles of the river in the township, including 30 culverts and five bridges. He elaborated on some of the early families, history, and industry of the township. He closed stating that the township “has a good relationship with BRWA.”

A lively exchange then followed between the audience and panel members, addressing some key points that will be taken into consideration when addressing citizen's concerns in the watershed action plan.

Some of the points discussed were that town officials and residents are often frustrated by regulatory delays that prevent timely remedies to problems; “top-down” regulation is too far removed from the community and its needs. Morgan Peck and some other area farmers in attendance discussed the benefits and limitations of local production and marketing. Residents representing the Marengo Lake Association also expressed interest in adopting a monitoring program like BRWA's.

While it is clear that there are many issues and challenges ahead for the Marengo River and all who call its environs home, the turnout and interest at this meeting show that the local community is well up to these challenges...and they can pull off a great picnic . ♦

*Editor's Note: The next meeting of the MRWP Project is scheduled for Thursday, October 7, 2010, where the draft of the watershed action plan will be revealed. Location and time TBD. For more information on the MRWP Project please call Valerie at 682-2669 or visit [www.badriverwatershed.org](http://www.badriverwatershed.org).*

## BRWA Receives GLRI Funds to Continue Culvert Work

By now, many local residents have heard that President Obama's 2010 budget provided \$475 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). This allocation is a tremendous opportunity to implement on-the-ground restoration throughout the Great Lakes.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service played a role in distributing some of these funds through the Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership. A total of \$1 million was distributed by the Fish Habitat Partnership to 10 groups, with BRWA being the only Wisconsin awardee. BRWA will use its \$119,000 grant award to replace two problem culverts each in Ashland and Iron counties in 2011. The funds will also support monitoring work before and after culvert replacements to see how the new culverts are affecting fish and their habitats.

The culvert sites scheduled for 2010 restoration include: two sites on tributaries to Marengo River (Hager Road, Town of Lincoln); Troutmere Creek (Midway Road, Town of Marengo); and Trout Brook and Quarry Road (Town of Morse).

Contact BRWA or check the BRWA website for summaries of last year's monitoring. ♦



## Five Hours on the Marengo River

By Jim Crandall

Matt, Val, Mimi, and I were outfitted in full waders, light jackets and our lunch. Elsa, Matt's spaniel, traveled lightly. We were out for a day of stream assessment along the Marengo on a sunny morning. We met at the home of a Bad River Watershed Association supporter to begin our walk along the banks and in the moving water of the river as part of the work necessary for the watershed action plan. The part we were on was about 30 feet wide and a foot to three feet deep and constantly moving. The river was not enough to really canoe down, but enough to know that you didn't want to tip over and fill your waders.

Matt had invited us for the day, appreciating our help in measuring sand bars, calculating flow rates, and assessing eroding banks. We used a GPS to note significant features along our walk. We saw the remains of rock dams from the logging days, several low beaver dams, and lots of beaver activity without any sign of human population during our day on the river.

We would walk along one side of the river, noting the location and size of sand bars, measuring the height and length of high banks, and taking notes on how fast the water was moving. The waders were necessary because a bank would disappear along one side of the river and we would cross to the other. We would have walked the bed of the moving water, but it was much easier to walk on the shore. I found a walking stick a great help as the water and slippery rocks were a force that were not to be taken lightly.

The stretch of the river we surveyed is remote. The water runs clean and there are few human signs except that from

generations ago. Elsa enjoyed the walk and the water as much as we did. She was constantly exploring and pointed for us three wood turtles that we would not have seen otherwise.

Matt, who had been introduced to a wood turtle earlier, told us that they are threatened in Wisconsin, so we felt fortunate to discover three. They ignored us. We, including Elsa, ignored them.

We did see beaver activity, but saw nary a one and several relatively modest dams. We were amazed at the size of the trees near the river that they had fallen, eaten the bark away and had carried off all limbs and tops. The paths to the river where the trees were downed looked like human paths. They were, indeed, busy beavers.

A lunch break and rest kept us going for the rest of the day. While it wasn't difficult trekking

down the river, it was strenuous work keeping moving along the wild banks and in the water. We each carried a stick to help us keep upright when walking on the slippery rocks. Our day ended with a steep climb out to another home of a BRWA supporter, five hours downstream. It isn't complex science, what we did, but it was an important part of investigating and documenting one of the cleanest, wildest rivers in the north. The Bad River watershed contains many of these wild tributaries. ♦

*Editor's Note: BRWA staff has continued the "Get to Know Your Watershed" stream assessments with volunteers this spring to gather more information for the watershed action plan being developed as part of the Marengo River Watershed Partnership (MRWP) Project. Here Jim Crandall recounts one of the field days spent with BRWA staff on a remote stretch of the Marengo River.*



From Left: Jim Crandall, Val Damstra, Mimi Crandall, Elsa the spaniel, and Matt Hudson.

## Bob Rice Bids Farewell

Over the last couple of years, I have enjoyed everything about working as BRWA's water quality monitoring program Volunteer Coordinator. I have, however, decided to move on at the end of June. I wanted to write this article to thank each of you for the way that you have made my job both enjoyable, and easy. Being the volunteer coordinator at BRWA was a truly great job because of the energy and commitment that volunteers, community members, board members and BRWA staff put in to fulfilling the mission of the organization. I have learned a lot about water quality from each of you, and am really grateful that I've been able to be a part of the work that the watershed association does by supporting volunteers in getting what they need for their monthly monitoring; many thanks to each of you for making my time at BRWA a great experience.

Reba and I are staying in the area, but are hoping to move near Iron River when our house sells. We've purchased a few acres north of the fairgrounds, on the river, and I'm putting together a strategic plan for a small farm/homestead.

Thank you again, for helping to make my job so enjoyable over the last couple of years.

—With gratitude, *Bob Rice*

*Editor's note: Val Damstra will take on Bob's role as Volunteer Coordinator.*



## BRWA Outdoor Expo: Your Chance to Learn, Play and Care for Your Watershed

Each year, BRWA hosts an annual picnic for our members and volunteers. It's our way to say thanks to everyone who gets involved in taking care of the watershed with BRWA. This year, we're making it even more of a party.

We're also pulling together a variety of opportunities for you to learn about your watershed and to lend a hand. Join us on Saturday, August 14, at Copper Falls State Park to enjoy a fun day outdoors. Park admission will be free for BRWA members. Activities will start at 1:00 and 3:00, followed by a picnic dinner. This is a family friendly event, so bring your young ones for lots of games and entertainment, including:

### Four-hour events – 1:00-5:00 p.m.

- Canoe the Bad River from Mellen to the park to pick up trash
- Remove invasives plants

### Other events – starting at 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.

- Water quality monitoring in the Bad River
- High Tech treasure hunt - Geocaching!
- All about bats with Brian Heeringa
- Learn to tie flies and cast with a fly rod
- Birds and butterflies with David Bratly

### Kids games all day

We hope to see you there! ◆



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Citizen Involvement Coordinator  
& Volunteer Coordinator

### Contact BRWA!

715-682-2003 - phone  
badriverwatershed.org

# Thank You!

**Thanks to our Water Quality Volunteers:** Tracey Ledder, Joan Elias, Mike Klump, Mike Stobbe, Gary Garfield, Kent Goeckermann, Andy Goyke, Ulli Kastens, Jack Wichita, Roland Wolff, Colleen Matula, Ed Kolodziejski, Darienne McNamara, Tracey Ledder, Andrea Haugo, Jerry Setzke, Dale Thomas, Heather Palmquist and MaryJo Gingras, Kent Goeckermann, Stefania Strzalkowska, and Rob Jones.

**Thanks to our Supporters:** Wisconsin Coastal Management Program, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Laura Jane Musser fund, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Wisconsin DNR Citizen's Based Monitoring Program and River Planning Grant Program, Ron and Patti Anderson, Hidden View Farm, Town of Grand View.

## Welcome New Volunteers!

New volunteers have joined the efforts of the Bad River Watershed Association by monitoring for *E. coli* or water chemistry this year. They include Rachel Coughtry and Caleb and Gabe Carpenter-Coughtry monitoring on the White River at Bibon Road, Valerie Olinik-Damstra monitoring on the Marengo River, Chuck Campbell monitoring for bacteria on the White River, Bill Mattes monitoring for bacteria on the White River, Bobbi Rongstad and Tom Podlesney monitoring on Vaughn Creek at Heffren Road, and Don Smith monitoring on Vaughn Creek in the Town of Saxon.

A big thanks, also, to Professor Sharon Anthony's Northland College May-term Chemistry class for monitoring on tributaries to the Marengo River for bacteria and chemistry, and to Professor Andy Goyke's May-term aquatics class, for monitoring macros on tributaries to the Marengo.

## Thanks to Spring for the Water Donors

### Food donors:

Washburn IGA, April and Jarod Stone-Dahl Family, Great Oak Farm, Elizabeth Webster, Miles Falck, Bodin's Fisheries, 6th Street Market, Walmart, Andy's IGA, Ashland Baking Company, County Market, Black Cat Coffee House, Eucolono Family, Bad River Supermarket, Tetzner Dairy Farm, Chequamegon Food Cooperative, Maple Hill Farm, Spirit Creek Farms

### Servers:

Anna Stone, Bella Stone-Dahl, April Stone-Dahl, Tabi Ulysses, Janelle Ulysses, Matt Scholes

### Auction and Raffle Items:

Washburn Cultural Center, Bayfield Inn, St. Croix Rods, Water Music Jewelry, Chequamegon Food Cooperative, Spirit Creek Farms, Sweet Sailing, Diana and Kelly Randolph Family, Washburn Hardware, Chequamegon CSA, Richard Berge, Jo and Mike Bailey Family, Colleen Matula Family Chippewa Valley Bank, Outdoor Alure, Cold Fusion, Hansen Zirn Family, Roode Foods Farm, Bill and Cindy Heart Family, Living Adventures, Inc, Hudson Helgeson Family, Pasture Perfect Poultry, Eckels Pottery, Bayfield Recreation Center, Andi Repko, Homestead Gardens, Northcoast Coffee, Hermit Creek Farm, Dragonfly Studio, Stone's Throw Pottery, Karlyn's Gallery, Good Thyme Restaurant and Catering, James and Mimi Crandall Family, Firelight Meadows, Pete Rasmussen, Jon Wheeler, #2 Septic Service, Glenn Miller, Brian and Carol Seago Family, Wild Rice, Big Top Chautauqua, Washburn IGA, Coco's Artisian Breads and Bakery, Washburn Family Dentistry, Mark & Pam Dryer, Terry Peters Family, Maggie's, Bayfield Coffee Company, The Egg Toss, Andy Noyes, Hermit Creek Farm, Erica Rosenfeld, Dougg Thomas, Four Point Moms, Grampa's Lighthouses, Harvey Carlson, Kathy Follis, Lois Osterburg, Wild by Nature, Yvette Fleming, Interior Designs

## Support the work of BRWA

If you live in the Bad River watershed, you're automatically a member of the Bad River Watershed Association. Consider enhancing your membership by making a financial donation to help support our work.

- \$100 Your name \_\_\_\_\_
  - \$ 50 Address: \_\_\_\_\_
  - \$ 25 \_\_\_\_\_
  - \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Phone and/or email: \_\_\_\_\_

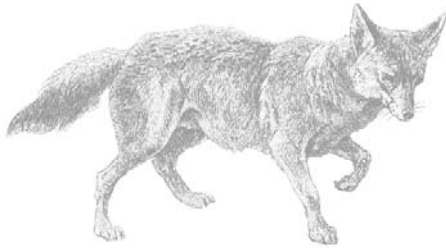
Clip this form and send with your tax-deductible check to:

Bad River Watershed Association  
P.O. Box 875  
Ashland, Wisconsin 54806

Thank you!



*Address Service Requested*



## Summer 2010 Watershed Waves

Get your Watershed Waves via email

We now have 87 people signed up to receive the newsletter via email. If you would prefer to get this newsletter in electronic format, please send a message with that request to: [brwa\\_wi@yahoo.com](mailto:brwa_wi@yahoo.com)



## WORKDAY ON THE WHITE!

The Friends of the White will be getting together to do some work "on the ground" to preserve our wonderful White River. We need folks to help with the following tasks:

- Mark an easement across private land that will allow public access the river
- Paint or stain signs or gates on the fishery area
- Walk trails looking for hazards or maintenance needs

Meet at the Cookie Jar in "downtown" Mason at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday July 10. Please bring a lunch, work gloves, sun hat and some bug spray—beverages and treats will be provided.

For more info, contact Bill Heart at 682- 4703.

## BRWA Outdoor Expo & Volunteer Picnic

Saturday, August 14  
Copper Falls State Park  
Starts at 1:00 p.m.

**Free Admission for BRWA Members!**

Join us for river clean up, invasives species removal,  
water monitoring — and of course good food  
and great company.