

So What's in a Name?

You'll find them all over the watershed – little streams that aren't even named on the map. Usually small enough to jump across. Shallow enough in most parts to walk across in rain boots and keep your feet dry. But as you walk along these small streams for a ways, you start to see a different story.

A down log may create a deep spot that will top your boots. A collection of springs downstream that widen the creek. Another small creek that trickles in and doubles the flow. These little waters may be too small for people to notice enough to name them, but I've been amazed at how productive they can be for fisheries.

This summer marked the second year of the Bad River Watershed Association's fish sampling in four such tributaries in the watershed. Two were tributaries to the Long Lake Branch of the White River, right next store to each other, and both are unnamed. One is shown as intermittent (a stream that dries up in the summer) the other doesn't even show up on the map. Another two of these unnamed streams that show up on the map as intermittent empty into the Marengo River.

Be certain though that all of these streams flow with clear, cold water all year long and serve a big role in the life cycle of trout. Adult trout use upstream reaches in the fall to spawn, and the little guys head up there in the heat of the summer to seek shelter from the warming water of the larger rivers they connect to.

We found these streams because road crews from the Town of Grand View and Lincoln had problems with the culverts washing out. The fish had problems with the culverts too – they couldn't swim up through them. So together with partners the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Land and Water Conservation Departments from Bayfield and Ashland Counties, we replaced a culvert on each of the streams.

We sampled fish populations before the culvert replacements and now we're sampling again after the new pipes were put in to find out how the fish are responding to the new pipes. So who lives downstream of a culvert? How big are they? How many are there? Are there different fish upstream of the pipe, are there more of them, and are they bigger? We also marked with a different color tag depending on where we caught them so that we'd know later if fish had moved through the new culverts.

Our first year of sampling in 2009 told us that Brook trout and Brown trout live in these small tributaries. We found that some fish were finding their way upstream through the newly installed culverts. In our second summer of sampling in 2010, not only did we catch a lot more fish, but found even more fish were moving upstream.

A better road for us travelers, and more habitat to explore for the fish. It's a happy ending for everyone. ♦

—Thanks to Jeran, Fern, Savo and Sadie Rekemeyer for helping collect monitoring data for BRWA's culvert replacement on a tributary to the Marengo River at Hager Road.



Small streams play a big role in the watershed

Have You Mailed in Your Contribution to BRWA Yet?

By now, most of you have received a letter from us asking for your financial support of BRWA.



We are asking you to donate so that we can continue working for the things you value—clean streams, healthy forests, fish in the rivers, and plenty of habitat for wildlife. If you've been meaning to send in that donation, but keep forgetting, now's the time!

BRWA has received an anonymous \$3,000 challenge donation. That means your contribution will now be worth **twice as much** towards getting local people involved in their watershed. Your donation will ensure that BRWA can continue providing you with the science-based, trusted information you can count on.

We know that you get many requests to support local and other organizations. We hope that you will keep BRWA in mind when choosing which causes to donate to. Whatever the amount—your contribution would let us know that you value our work.

BRWA and USFWS have produced fact sheets for culvert replacements that show pictures and monitoring data. Contact BRWA for copies.

BRWA News

Town Hall Meeting about the Penokee Mining Proposal

By now just about everyone is talking about the potential for mining in the Penokee Range. We know that you all are interested in learning more about it. Wisconsin Public Radio has convened a panel of representatives to talk about what this could mean for our community. The meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2011 at the Northern Great Lakes Visitors Center, from 6-8 p.m. The event will also be broadcast live on KUWS-FM (91.3FM, 102.9FM) and WHSA-FM (89.9FM, 104.7FM).

Come to the event to hear presentations and ask questions at an impartial public forum about the Gogebic Taconite proposal. Participants will include Gogebic Taconite/The Cline Group representatives, Wisconsin Geological Survey, UW Extension, and economic development agencies. Michael A. Miller, President of Northland College, will serve as moderator. ♦

Quantities are limited and filling quickly for the annual Native Plant Sale

Place your order by February 18, 2011 for the Land Conservation Department's annual sale, including native trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers. Trees and shrubs are sold bare root and grasses and flowers are sold in 6-pack plugs. All plants are sold in small quantities at a low cost. Proceeds from this sale fund scholarships for local students and teachers.



Pick up an order form at the following locations in Ashland, Bayfield, Iron, & Douglas Counties: Land Conservation Departments, County Clerk office, County Forestry offices, DNR office in Ashland, Barnes, Mercer & Superior, UWEX offices in Ashland and Hurley. Contact the Iron County LCD at 715-561-2234 or Ashland County LCD at 715-682-7187 for more information. ♦

BRWA Board Changes Definition of Membership

BRWA is committed to preserving and improving the quality of the Bad River watershed. A core part of our work is connecting people with resources to maintain the integrity of the watershed for future generations. We have always, and continue to want all citizens to find membership in BRWA to be a meaningful way to be a part of their watershed.

Recently, the Board of Directors decided to change our bylaw's membership definition to better reflect community support of our work.

The Board of Directors and the staff of BRWA are grateful for the growth that we have enjoyed in the last few years, and we are hopeful that these changes in membership definitions will enable BRWA to better serve our members at each level. So in a nutshell, if you value the work we do, let us know by expressing your interest in membership, or contact us to contribute. ♦

Previous definition of membership:

People owning real property or residing within the boundaries of the watershed are considered a "general member" of the Association. Persons residing outside the boundaries of the watershed may apply to become "associate members." General or associate members who contribute money, time, or talent to the organization shall be counted as "supporting members."

New definition of membership:

"General membership" is extended to any individual within or outside of the watershed who expresses interest in supporting the mission of the Bad River Watershed Association. "Contributing membership" is defined as general members who extend their commitment to the organization by contributing time, talent or money to the organization.



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Citizen Involvement Coordinator
& Volunteer Coordinator

Contact BRWA!
715-682-2003 - phone
badriverwatershed.org



Here comes winter!

The Marengo Watershed Action Plan at Work

For many years, Charlie and Claire Ylitalo have wanted to create a wetland on their farm west of Marengo, but have been frustrated by “red tape” of state permitting and cost to get the project moving. Charlie, a retired dairy farmer (who now raises about 60 beef cattle), has always recognized that some areas of their farm were “always wet and not very productive,” he said. “I’ve always thought those areas would be a great place to put in a pond to attract ducks and other wildlife to our property.”

On a visit to the Ylitalo’s farm this past spring, Charlie told BRWA staff about their interest. We immediately thought of the U. S. Fish and

Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Ashland County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD): two agencies with funding and expertise needed to create restored wetlands.

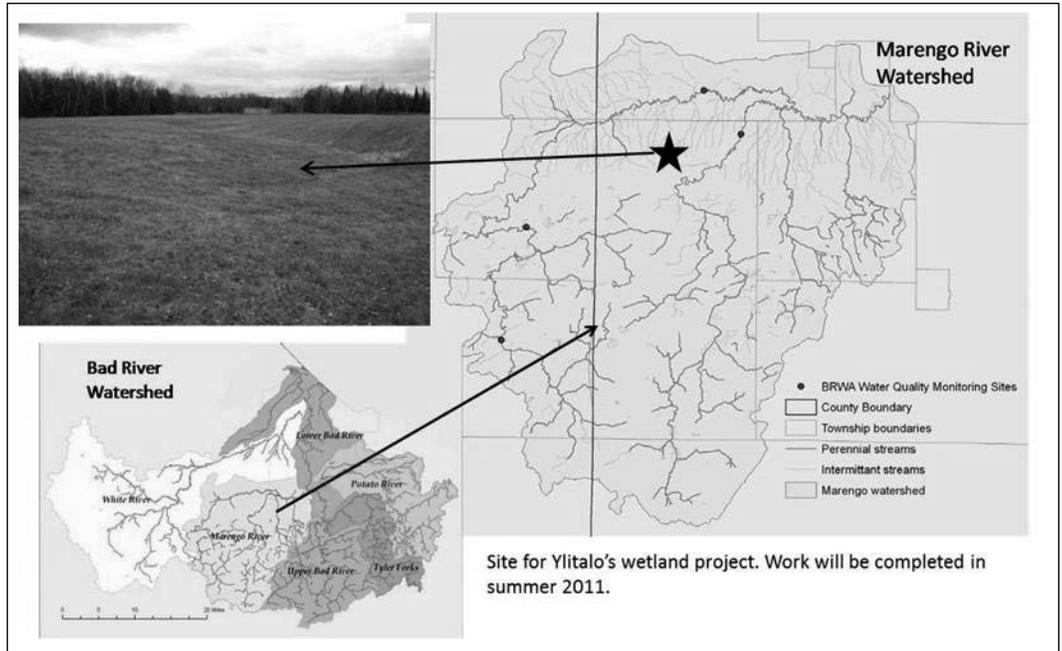
A site visit this past summer determined the Ylitalo’s property is located in a high priority area for wetland creation. Survey work was just completed this fall and construction is planned for summer 2011. Funding for the project will come from a variety of sources including: USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, Ashland County LWCD, and Ducks Unlimited.

So why create wetlands? In addition to providing important habitat to attract many species of birds and wildlife, wetlands act like sponges on the land, “slowing the flow” of water as it runs off during rain storms and snowmelt. “Slowing the flow” of runoff is critical to keeping our local streams and rivers healthy, especially in the famous red clay areas of northwest Wisconsin.

“We’re really excited about the wetland restoration at Ylitalo’s,” said Ted Koehler, Biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. “It will benefit multiple species of migratory birds and other local wildlife, and help slow the flow of runoff to protect local streams. BRWA played a key role in connecting the Ylitalo’s interests with our expertise and resources”

Like the Ylitalo’s, other landowners who have an interest in attracting more birds and wildlife to their property and doing something to help out their local rivers through wetland creation, are encouraged to contact Ted Koehler (phone: 715-685-6185, email: Ted_Koehler@fws.gov).

Stay tuned for more on the Ylitalo’s story as their project is completed in summer 2011. ♦



Support the work of BRWA

Anybody who supports our mission can become 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!



Winter Stoneflies Flourish in the Freezing Temps

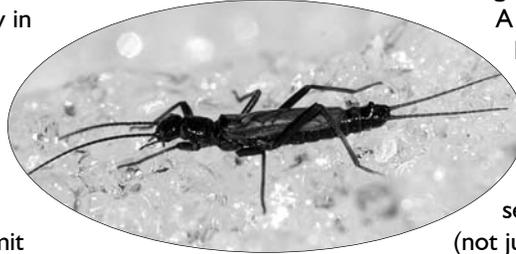
Winter is upon us. For most of us it is the time to bundle up in many layers and burrow in for warmth and shelter until the warm weather calls us out again.

The same holds true for aquatic insects. Aquatic insects, in their larval forms when they live in streams, overwinter down in the nooks and crannies of the stream bottom. They limit their activity and settle in for a long winter's nap until the weather turns warm again.

However, there is an exception to this in the aquatic insect world. These elusive creatures are known as the "winter stoneflies." For them, the freezing winter temperatures are just the right time to shed those outer exoskeletons and spread their wings as adults.

All stoneflies (order *Plecoptera*) live in freshwater in their juvenile form, called larvae. Stonefly larvae are found almost exclusively in cold, swift flowing streams. As their common name implies, they are often found crawling or hiding among the stones of stream bottoms or banks. Just go ahead and pick up a rock one day while out in a cold stream—there is sure to be a stonefly scurrying around underneath! Stoneflies live underwater for anywhere from 3 months up to 3 years, depending on the species. And like many aquatic insects, they typically emerge in the warmer months as adults.

Uniquely, the winter stoneflies have adapted for winter emergence. This happens usually in the late winter, beginning in February. It works to their advantage since winter stoneflies can grow and thrive relatively free from competition and predation by other aquatic insects and fish at a cold time of year. Researchers have seen that this cold-season terrestrial existence is more generally developed in stoneflies than in perhaps any



other large group of insects.

A defining need of winter stoneflies is for very high levels of oxygen in the water. Warm temperatures, excessive organic matter, and many pollutants all reduce oxygen levels. As a result, they're only active in the coldest part of the year and are very sensitive to pollution. In fact, most stoneflies (not just the "winter" ones) are clean—water

insects, and are excellent indicators of high water quality. Five stonefly families make their home in the Bad River Watershed. Four families are found primarily during warmer weather: *Perlidae* (common stoneflies), *Chloroperlidae* (green stoneflies), *Perlodidae* (patterned stoneflies), and *Pteronarcyidae* (giant stoneflies). *Taeniopterygidae* is one of two families known as the "winter stoneflies," and has been found by our volunteer stream monitors at sites in the White River, 20 Mile Creek (White River Basin), Potato River, Vaughn Creek (Potato River Basin), and the Bad River. The other family, *Capniidae* (small winter stoneflies) has not been found yet at any of our sites—but perhaps we would find them if we were looking at a colder time of year!

So, as you're out and about this winter skiing or snowshoeing by your favorite cold-water stream, stop and take a look to see if the winter stoneflies are out. Observers have noted that winter stoneflies are often attracted to bridges over streams as a resting spot, or even will sit on the surface of the snow on the warmer days of late winter. ♦

Sources:

- *Aquatic Entomology: A Fishermen's and Ecologists' Illustrated Guide to Insects and their Relatives* by W.P. McCafferty
- Bugguide.net hosted by Iowa State University Entomology Department

BRWA Celebrates First Year of Marengo River Watershed Partnership Project

"The Marengo River is truly a river of change. From its sleepy beginnings in the wetlands of the Penokee hills of northern Wisconsin, to its journey through a large valley that once formed the shoreline of glacial Lake Duluth, and its final leg through the flat, agricultural areas of the Lake Superior clay plain, this river and all the streams that flow into it are truly special."

—Excerpt from the Marengo River Watershed Action Plan

The Bad River Watershed Association hosted the Marengo River Watershed Partnership Project Celebration on December 16, 2010. More than 90 community members gathered at Four Corners Saloon in Mason to celebrate the one year anniversary of the first meeting of the MRWP, and to celebrate the development of a watershed action plan for the Marengo River Watershed. BRWA wishes to thank everyone who attended the event and provided valuable contributions to the MRWP Project. For the latest information on the MRWP Project and upcoming events, please visit www.badriverwatershed.org. ♦



Thank You!

Thanks to our Water Quality Volunteers: Tracey Ledder, Don Smith, Roland Wolff, Bobbi Rongstad, Tom Podlesny, Rob Jones, Kent Goeckermann, UlliKastens, Jerry Setzke, Jack Wichita, Joan Elias, Caleb Coughtry-Carpenter, Henry Gradillas, Mike Stobbe, Mike Klump, Darienne McNamara, Andrea Haugo, Mary Jo Gingras, Heather Palmquist, Colleen Matula, Ed Kolodziejski, Benjamin Hughey, Thomas Bernard, Jennifer Heinzl, Lee Hengescht.

Thanks to our Donors (Sept. 15-Dec. 16): Janet Bewley, Ruth Lauritzen, Pam & Micheal Ryan, Glen & Judy Bennington, Wild Rivers Trout Unlimited, Laura Ehmann & Ron Parkinson, Becky & Scott Sapper, Grant Herman & Gail Green, Diana & Kelly Randolph, Bobbie Rongstad & Tom Podlesny, Darienne McNamara & Tim Ciembronowicz, Bob & Reba Rice, Sarah Traaholt, Rebecca McDowell & Davis Taylor, Steve & Janet Mashl, A. W. Research Labs, Dennis Gisvold, River Rock Bait Shop, Tony & Jean Wallner, Allan A. & Ramona Hann, Chris Duke & Autumn Kelly, Anne Chartier & Jim Oakley, Shari & Mark Eggleston, Ruth Lull & Robert Parsonage, Eric Sorensen & Linda Zirngibl, Nancy Willett, Diane Littel & Norton Thomas, Jerold & Margaret Heino, Plum Creek, Kurt & Laurie Schmude, Clyde EiloFamily, Steve & Margaret Baumgardner, Ken & Darlene Raspotnik, Mike & Amy Amman, Elden & Catherine Tetzlaff, Terry Daulton & Jeff Wilson, Jack & Anne Helgeson, Ken & Abigail Dawkins, Steven Riley, Town of Anderson, Laura Jane Musser Fund, Wisconsin Coastal Management Program, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Johnson Family Foundation, Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Jedd & Heidi Ungrodt, Dr. Clair Morud & Sheila Mitchell, Dr. Grace Heitsch, Hans & Ulli Cords-Kastens, Matt & Carol Bushman, Town of Gingles, Anonymous, Nancy Casperson, Sjanna Schanning, James & Joan Collins, Sarah Boles & Adrian Wydeven, Thomas Wyse & Andrea Haugo, Christina Strom & John Dursi, Tom Richardson, Naomi Tillison & James Burtrum.

Producing Hay for Profit

UW Extension will be hosting the First Annual Farming for Profit Workshop that is intended to provide training and information to help you make money farming. The workshop is intended for all audiences, from the most experienced farmers to beginning farmers to landowners that lease their land to farmers. The focus for 2011 is on profitable hay production. Registration is required; cost is \$5/session or \$15 for all four sessions:

- **Monday, Jan 10:** The Hay Business: Pricing, Buying Selling, Lease Agreements, and auctions; 6:00 - 8:30 P.M., WITC-Ashland
- **Thurs, Jan 27:** Forage quality: Evaluating, Testing, and Protecting, 6:00-8:30 P.M. Ashland Agricultural Research Station
- **Thurs, Feb 10:** FORAGE MANAGEMENT I: Growing/harvesting high quality hay, 6:00-8:30 P.M. Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center

- **Mon, Feb 21:** Forest Management II: New seedlings and low-cost renovations. 6:00-8:30 P.M. WITC-Ashland

For more information, contact Jason Fischbach at 715-373-6104, or check the website <http://bayfield.uwex.edu/>.



**1ST ANNUAL
FARMING FOR PROFIT
WORKSHOP SERIES**

**Producing Hay
for
PROFIT**

Offered in January and February
at five locations throughout
Northwest Wisconsin.

ASHLAND




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Winter 2011 Watershed Waves

[Get your Watershed Waves 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



SAVE THE DATES

- JAN 18: Water Chemistry Volunteers Quality Control Session, 6-8 pm, Northland College
- JAN 19: Penoque Mining Proposal Town Hall Meeting, 6-8 pm, Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. See page 2 for details.
- JAN 20-21: BRWA Culvert Monitoring Workshop, Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute.
- First Annual Farming for Profit Workshop, hosted by UW Extension, will provide training and information to help you make money farming. The focus for 2011 is on profitable hay production. Four sessions: JAN 10, JAN 27, FEB 10, and FEB 21. See page 5 for details.
- FEB 18: Deadline for placing orders for the annual Native Plant Sale. See page 2 for details.