

CENTRAL WISCONSIN BASIN PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. 2

MARCH, 2000

Calendar of Events

April 12, 2000 – CWBP meeting in Necedah;
9:30 am-11:00 business matters and,
11:20am-2:00 Lunch (provided) and Tour

June 28, 2000 – CWBP meeting in Bevent;
9:00 am-12:00

Web Sites

http://www.epa.gov/owow/volunteer/vm_index.html

This site is centered on the “Volunteer Monitor”, a volunteer water quality monitoring information newsletter. Good information regarding community outreach, monitoring issues, planning, etc.

<http://wiscinfo.doit.wisc.edu/herbarium/>
This site contains great plant information.

<http://www.wisc.edu/botany/virtual.html>
This site contains wonderful pictures of actual plants that are part of an online botany course.



Photo Credit Jay Joachim

Updates

Barrier Island Update—

The project champions have been told that it is unlikely any new legislation to allow barrier islands to be permitted will be passed this session. There is potential for current legislation to be reworded, however.

Yellow River Update

A landowner meeting was held on March 18, 2000 to discuss water quality concerns and to create land use guidelines along the river. An April 28, 2000 meeting is scheduled for other user groups of the river. Currently, this group has provided technical assistance to 39 landowners representing over 8,000 acres. In addition, 11 landowners representing 495 acres have signed nonbinding land use agreements with the Refuge while another 50 landowners are in the process of negotiation.

Plover River Update

The Plover River Alliance gained ground February 23 when the Portage County Board's Planning & Zoning Committee unanimously recommended approval of a county open space plan. It includes a segment on the Plover River, and the Alliance sees this as a vital step in its efforts to protect the river basin.

Still needed is ratification by the County Board, which is scheduled to take the matter up March 21.

The plan provides suggestions for maintaining the quality of the river through buffers, land acquisition, easements and other means.

The Alliance hopes to acquire conservation easements along its banks in Portage County, using local money and state Stewardship funds. The organization has been meeting with Marathon County people and hopes to stimulate further protection measures there. Trout Unlimited has already done much improvement work in northern Marathon County, where the Plover is an outstanding trout stream.

A probable new development will be a water quality study of the Plover through its entire length. The plan is to sample the river at a number of locations at different times of the year. Overall, the Plover's water quality is considered to be good. The goal of the study is to identify any contamination problems that may exist and provide a baseline for future studies.

Money Matters

River and Stream Planning & Protection Grant Program—

This program operates on a cost-share basis, with local sponsors providing 25% of the funding for approved projects, and the state providing the remaining 75%. The state will contribute up to \$10,000 toward river and stream planning projects, and provide grants of up to \$50,000 for river and stream protection efforts.

The next projected grant application due date is **September 1, 2000.**

Contact person: Heath Benike, DNR
715-839-3700



Fun Facts

RUSTY CRAYFISH



Rusty crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*) are native to streams in the Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee region. Spread by anglers who use them as bait, rusty crayfish are prolific and can severely reduce lake and stream vegetation, depriving native fish and their prey of cover and food. They also reduce native crayfish populations.

Photo Credit: Minnesota Sea Grant, Jeff Gunderson
References

[A Field Guide to Aquatic Exotic Plants and](#)

Notes and Corrections

***The Great Lakes Information
Network Web Site***

<http://www.great-lakes.net>

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<http://www.great-lakes.net/envt/exotic/rusty.html>

Your feedback regarding this newsletter is
welcome! Call 715-421-7815.

The Vital Role of Wetlands: A Few Statistics

- 75% of all waterfowl breed only in wetlands
- 50 to 60% of American wild ducks are hatched in the prairie pothole marshes of the Upper Midwest
- 75% of commercially-harvested fish and shellfish rely on wetlands for at least part of their life cycle
- 43% of the 595 US plant and animal species listed as threatened or endangered depend on wetlands for their survival
- \$3.1 billion is the estimated flood-control protection provided by the nations' prairie potholes over 20 years
- 85% of phosphorus and nitrates can be removed from runoff water by wetlands

from Citizen's Wetland Protection Handbook



