

DCEC Newsletter

Environmental News for Door County



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Early Summer 2010

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A Season of Great Events!



WHAT A GREAT SEASON of events we have planned for you this year! DCEC will be bringing you four highly useful and informative programs between May and October, and we'd sure like to see you there!

Coming in May, we're bringing you Doctor Phil!

Doctor Phil Moy, that is. This Doctor Phil is the Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute's leading expert on the fishy subject of Asian Carp. This pernicious fish is on the threshold of the Great Lakes and seems eager to invade. Its only remaining obstacle are the locks on the

Chicago River in Illinois, which officials are refusing to close.

Come and get a complete, up-to-date education on this baleful bottom-feeder: Wednesday, May 19th at 7 pm at Crossroads at Big Creek, 2041 Michigan St., in Sturgeon Bay.

In June, we'll be treated to another engaging Doc: Roger Kuhns, PhD in geology, and a most entertaining soul. Roger will be talking about excessive animal waste, shallow soil and our fractured rock structures that increase the danger of nitrates in our well water, a serious health hazard. Find out more, Monday, June 21st, 7pm, also at Crossroads.

In celebration of our 40th anniversary, we have a real treat in store for you at our Annual Summer Program. Besides our usual report on conditions in Door County and our environmental citizen of the year award, we'll have an evening with Jerry Apps. He's a regular on Wisconsin Public Radio & Television, and well-known author, humorist, historian and UW professor. Reserve August 25th and arrive at the Baileys Harbor Town Hall just before 7 pm.

Our last event will focus on how we can maintain our lifestyles on this rocky peninsula, considering the geology of our Niagara Escarpment. We will feature Ken Bradbury of UW's Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey. Also at Crossroads, watch for our August newsletter and local newspaper calendars for details.

~RV

Breaking News on Hines Emerald Dragonfly!

THE GREENEST CELEBRATION on Earth Day revolved around the Hines Emerald Dragonfly and the announcement that the critical habitat supporting America's sole endangered dragonfly species would more than double in size.

As a result of a settlement between environmental groups and the US Fish & Wildlife Service, the Midwestern insects will enjoy expanded protections in Michigan's Hiawatha National Forest and the Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri. The new critical habitat rule ups the area of protection from 13,000 to 26,000 acres and **adds some new**

areas in Wisconsin's Door County.

"These gorgeous insects used to be found throughout the Midwest," said Andrew Wetzler, director of the Wildlife Conservation Project for the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC).

"We've lost so much of their habitat. And once the wetlands that support these dragonflies are gone, they are gone forever. Today's Federal protection decision ensures that we don't lose any more."

The new rule comes about in response

Please see "Hines" page three



DCEC Incorporated in 1970 under the laws of Wisconsin as a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation

Dragonfly's critical habitat areas expanded

THE LONG ON-GOING LITIGATION to secure full critical habitat protection has finally been resolved with the new ruling by the US Fish and Wildlife Service dated April 6th and entered into the Federal Register on April 23rd as the official designated Critical Habitat Areas for the Hines Emerald Dragonfly.

We began the protection effort for this endangered species more than 14 years ago and had the prime role in getting the Federal endangered listing with Dr. Jim Zimmerman and others' expert advice.

After the previous US Fish and Wildlife Service critical habitat designation was deemed inadequate, DCEC again joined forces with the: Northwoods Wilderness Recovery, The Michigan Nature Association, The Habitat Education Center, Natural Resources Defense Council, and The Center for Biological Diversity.

We jointly filed a complaint against the Department of the Interior and the Service challenging the exclusion of U.S. Forest Service lands from the 2007 final designation of critical habitat for the dragonfly (Northwoods Wilderness Recovery et al. v. Dirk Kempthorne 1:08CV01407).

Prior to this meeting, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, on February 12, 2009, approved a settlement agreement in which the Service agreed to a remand, without voiding the critical habitat designation, to reconsider the Federal exclusions from the designation of critical habitat for the Hines Emerald Dragonfly.

As a result of the new USFWS Ruling we doubled the amount of designated critical habitat (from 13,000 acres to 26,000). We also won back protection for the Upper Peninsula of Michigan's Hiawatha National Forest and Missouri's Mark Twain National Forest. Both had been completely excluded in the last round.

The new designation also included an additional 147 acres of critical habitat in Door County (designated as Wisconsin Unit 11, Kellner's Fen) near Sturgeon Bay.

FWS continued to exclude State owned (Missouri Department of Conservation) and private lands in Missouri. It also did not include any unoccupied habitat or groundwater recharge areas (unless they were within otherwise designated areas). However, with regard to the later, the designation does state that "Federal actions that affect groundwater

recharge to any of the critical habitat units" are subject to ESA critical habitat consultations (which, arguably, is effectively the same as designating these areas).

Critical habitat is defined in section 3 of the Act as:

(1) The specific areas within the geographical area occupied by a species, at the time it is listed in accordance with the Act, on which are found those physical or biological features

- (a) essential to the conservation of the species and
 - (b) which may require special management considerations or protection; and
- (2) Specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by a species at the time it is listed, upon a determination that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species. Conservation, as defined under section 3 of the Act, means the use of all methods and procedures that are necessary to bring any endangered or threatened species to the point at which the measures provided under the Act are no longer

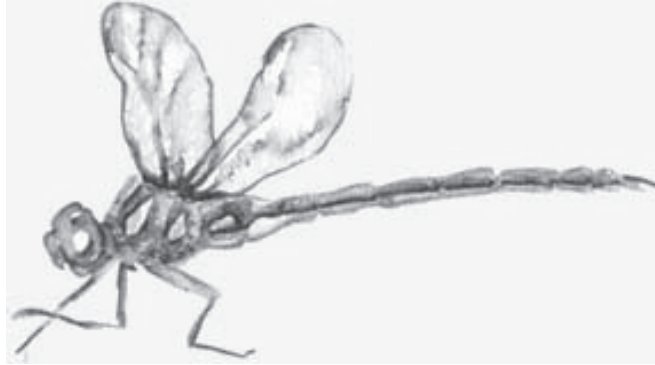
necessary. Such methods and procedures include, but are not limited to, all activities associated with scientific resources management, such as research, census, law enforcement, habitat acquisition and maintenance, propagation, live trapping and transplantation.

FINAL RULE SUMMARY:

"We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, are designating critical habitat for the Hines emerald dragonfly (*Somatochlora hineana*) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. In total, approximately 26,531.8 acres in 37 units fall within the boundaries of our critical habitat designation. The critical habitat units are located in Cook, DuPage, and Will Counties in Illinois; Alpena, Mackinac, and Presque Isle Counties in Michigan; Crawford, Dent, Iron, Phelps, Reynolds, Ripley, Washington, and Wayne Counties in Missouri; and Door and Ozaukee Counties in Wisconsin.

"This rule becomes effective 30 days after date of Federal Register publication.

"For general information regarding this finding, contact the Field Supervisor, Chicago Ecological Services Field Office, 1250 S. Grove, Suite 103, Barrington, IL 60010 (telephone: 847-381-2253; facsimile: 847-381-2285)." ~JMV



Europe uses garbage for heating fuel.

WHY IS EUROPE AHEAD of the U.S. in embracing clean incinerators that turn garbage into energy?

The Vestforbraending plant in Copenhagen is the largest of the 29 waste-to-energy plants in Denmark. These plants have reduced the country's energy costs. An affluent enclave in Horsholm, Denmark, has few complaints about a nearby plant that converts trash to energy. Far cleaner than conventional incinerators, this new type of plant converts local trash into heat and electricity. Dozens of filters catch pollutants, from mercury to dioxins, that would have emerged from its smokestack only a decade ago.

Since that time, these plants have become both the mainstay of garbage disposal and a crucial fuel source across Denmark, from wealthy exurbs like Horsholm to Copenhagen's downtown area. Their use has not only reduced the country's energy costs

and reliance on oil and gas, but also benefited the environment, diminishing the use of landfills and cutting carbon dioxide emissions. The plants run so cleanly that many times more dioxin is now released from home fireplaces and backyard barbecues than from incineration.

With all these innovations, Denmark now regards garbage as a clean alternative fuel rather than a smelly, unsightly problem. Waste-to-energy plants have acquired considerable demand as communities like Horsholm vie to have them built. Denmark now has 29 such plants, serving 98 municipalities in a country of 5.5 million people. 10 more are planned or under construction. Across Europe, there are about 400 plants, with Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands leading the pack in expanding them and building new ones.

Please turn to "GARBAGE"—page six

Conflict of Interest for State Watchdog Agency?

THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT of Natural Resources is the administrative agency in Wisconsin tasked with promulgating and enforcing regulations to implement state laws that promote and protect the state's environment and natural resources, as well as the federal Clean Water Act.

The Environmental Protection Agency's ("EPA") delegation of this authority to DNR reflects the fact that the DNR alone has both the mandate and the technical expertise to protect water quality and natural resources. The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection ("DATCP"), on the other hand, has the distinctly dissimilar role of **promoting agriculture** in Wisconsin.

In May 2009, DNR signed an Agreement in Principle with the Secretary of DATCP and the President of the Dairy Business Association ("DBA"), a *Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation* (CAFO) lobby group. Pursuant to this Agreement, DNR subsequently signed a *memorandum of understanding* with DATCP, agreeing to give DATCP some of the engineering and Nutrient Management Plan review authority granted to DNR under state and federal law.

This memorandum created an unworkable conflict of interest for DATCP, **which now must regulate and promote the same industry**. In the Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding DNR also agreed to develop a General Permit for dairy CAFO's and has since issued General Permit proposal for public comment.

The General Permit process takes away any community input into the permitting process by granting "blanket" permits to cover all applications for CAFO operation. This is unacceptable for the citizens of Wisconsin. Now several statewide organizations and individuals have requested modification of the proposed livestock facility siting rules by submitting their own Memorandum of Understanding to the Secretary of Wisconsin DNR, Matt Frank.

"The Parties herein named acknowledge the importance of clean and safe air and water to Wisconsin's economy, rural health, and well being. The Parties further acknowledge the long tradition of socially responsible, small-scale family dairy farms that has contributed to the economy and rural vitality of the state, while protecting and conserving natural resources. Finally, the Parties acknowledge that the economic benefits of the CAFO industry to certain individual and corporate interests bear no relevance to the DNR's mission to serve Wisconsin's people and environment, or to its responsibilities under the law.

"It is our hope that this document will give the DNR support to reaffirm its mission to protect Wisconsin's natural resources, by opening the door to discussions on how CAFO regulation and enforcement can be strengthened. Together we can sustain rural communities and responsible family farms, while protecting Wisconsin's air, land, and water."

The objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding to ensure realistic regulation of CAFO's in Wisconsin by the agency responsible, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources are:



1. Improve the level of protection from CAFO pollution provided to Wisconsin's environment and citizens, through increased compliance with the Clean Water Act and rigorous enforcement of CAFO engineering requirements and Wisconsin Pollution Discharge Elimination System ("WPDES") permits.
2. Provide effective deterrents to violations of state and federal law, through increased frequency and consistency of CAFO on-site inspections and increased penalties for violations.
3. Restore DNR's credibility with the citizens of Wisconsin by rescinding the proposed dairy CAFO General Permits, which were a product not of sound policy and law, but rather were developed in response to pressure from the regulated community.
4. Improve the process for review and approval of engineering Plans and Specifications and Nutrient Management Plans, keeping oversight authority wholly within the DNR.
5. Clarify the information required for CAFO permits and applications to make it easier for affected citizens and local units of government to understand and engage in the process.

To that end, DCEC is proud to join this action with the thirteen other State organizations and citizen groups genuinely concerned about the proposed lack of responsible long-term stewardship which apparently is the aim of the CAFO rules presently proposed. ~JMV

Hines—from Page One

to a suit filed by NRDC, Center for Biological Diversity, Northwoods Wilderness Recovery, Michigan Nature Association, Door County Environmental Council and the Habitat Education Center.

"Thanks to the designation, Hines Emerald Dragonflies now have a chance to recover from the brink of extinction. Protecting habitat is the best way to bring back these spectacular insect predators" said John Buse, Senior Attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity.

"We are proud to have been a partner in this long effort to protect the beautiful Hines Emerald Dragonfly here in Wisconsin and throughout the habitat region," said Door County Environmental Council executive director Jerry Viste.

"This has been a long effort since the beginning of the awareness of this tiny creature in our area of Wisconsin and we appreciate the efforts that have been committed on its behalf. The Hines' support here began more than 14 years ago with the discovery in remote wetland areas in northern Door and now has been expanded to include Kellner's Fen and the Kayes Creek watershed. A very sincere thank you to the folks who carried this effort to completion."

Extra! Extra! Read all about it!

Read all about renewable energy in Door County, that is!

We're almost ready to release the newest edition of our most popular publication ever, the *Door County Renewable Energy Guide!*

No matter where we go or whom we talk to, everybody wants a copy of this directory. This neat, pocket-sized booklet covers two groups of people.

First, there are those folks already using renewable energy in Door County. New this edition, we've included the phone numbers of people who are willing to talk with you and possibly show off their systems.

The second group is people who sell and install renewable energy systems here in Door County. This edition's list is expanded to include vendors from outside the county who are willing to come here and help you out.



So whether it's wind, sun or geothermal you're interested in—keep your eye out for the new *Door County Renewable Energy Guide*. We'll have it at all of our exhibitions and public speaking engagements. Just ask for one.

If you're too excited to wait, just go to our website RenewableDoorCounty.com and you can download your very own copy there. We expect it to be available online no later than May 15th.

Or call me, Don Pardonner, at 920-839-1182 or email Don@RenewableDoorCounty.com.

While you're at the website, also consider listening to a couple of our podcasts. Just click at the podcast button on the top of our home page.

Until next time, keep on saving with renewable energy!

Colorado town starts to disappear, on purpose!

FOWLER, COLORADO IS A SMALL TOWN like many towns on the Eastern Plains and has seen better days, but now it has a new plan. It is going to disappear—from the electric grid. If the town's plans, and there are many, come to pass, Fowler will generate its own electricity, biofuel and manure-based gas, and an empty canning plant will turn into a new solar panel factory.

At a time when most public officials, including President Barack Obama, and Governor Bill Ritter, are calling green and renewable energy a key to rejuvenating the American economy, tiny Fowler is making itself a full-scale test case.

In May 807 solar panels will go up at eight sites around town and generate 30,000-kilowatt hours of electricity a year, enough to cover almost all of the municipal energy needs. The \$1.2 million project is being built by Denver based Vibrant Solar Inc., which will sell the electricity to Fowler at about half the price it pays its current utility, Black Hills Energy and will result in a predicted savings of \$20,000 for the town in the first year. Vibrant would get about \$440,000 in rebates and \$40,000 in energy credits over the next 20 years from Black Hills, according to estimates from the utility's director of economic development. Black Hills utility will be able to count Fowler as part of its mandate to produce 30 percent of generation from renewable sources.

And that's just the beginning. There are four other projects on the drawing board and all told, could add about 1 megawatt of power, or two-thirds of the entire town's power needs. The primary goal is to stabilize the utility costs, then reduce them with the town

having its own utility. Projects being explored are:

- A photobioreactor turning wastewater lagoon algae into biochemicals, fertilizer, or biofuel.
- An anaerobic digester turning feedlot manure into methane.
- A wind farm on land the town owns on Windy Point.
- Additional solar panels on school buildings.

At first glance, Fowler, population 1,200 seems an unlikely green-engineer pioneer, no Boulder, Austin or Berkeley. A small town built on melons, sweet corn, sugar beets, chili pepper and beef cattle, Fowler's story is like that of many other farming communities on the broad plains of the Arkansas River Valley. And like all those towns, it has been a story of decline. In the 1950s the town had two drugstores, two groceries, three doctors and a J.C. Pinney.

Three years ago a retired Northrop Grumman Corporation executive retired there, became town manager, and everyone agrees the whole renewable energy project traces back to this new leadership. His interest in renewable energy began with a bargain it couldn't afford, when the town got the old Park Elementary School from the district for \$1 for use as the "new" city hall.

The city realized they couldn't afford to operate the building unless they found cheaper, renewable energy.

So it began. The town, with the help of the Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute at Denver, drew up a comprehensive land-use and development plan, with the renewable energy part of the plan outlining objectives for the next five years. The town has gathered

Please turn to "COLORADO"—page six

What You Can Do for Our Earth

Good news for water quality!

THE DOOR COUNTY Sheriff's Department is now offering an ongoing free service to dispose of unwanted medications. Any unwanted human pills or capsules, whether prescription or over-the-counter, can be dropped off at the Door County Sheriff's Department. They're in the Justice Center at 1201 S. Duluth (about a 1/4 mile south of Walgreen's on county road S) from Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm.

First, take the medication out of the original packaging (whether in a bottle or a blister pack). Then recycle or dispose of the container. At the Justice Center, the person at the front window of the Sheriff's Department will give you a special plastic bag for the meds. Put the bag of meds into the metal pass-through to the right of the reception window. The medications will then be destroyed at an approved disposal facility. All drop-offs will be anonymous.



Keep in mind that they will take only human pills and capsules and the WILL NOT accept the following:

- No liquids, creams or lotions.
- No syringes or needles.
- No chemotherapy drugs.
- No thermometers.
- No aerosols or inhalers.
- No pet medications.

Remember: Never dispose of medications in the toilet because they pollute the water and harm humans and animals.

By properly disposing of medications at the Sheriff's Department, you reduce the risk of overdose, theft, burglary and water pollution. This is now an ongoing program, so you don't have to wait for a special collection, as in the past.

Thank you to the Door County Sheriff's Department for offering this valuable service!

Sileen Andera DCEC President

Consider this before you mow!

AS IS TRUE NATIONALLY, lawn care has become a big deal for most Door County homeowners and certainly an even bigger deal for large residential developments and golf courses. This is not surprising since most of us find freshly mowed, green lawns to be both functional and visually pleasing.

But according to Safelawns (a national non-profit dedicated to promoting natural lawn care) those good looking lawns reflect significant negative impacts. They estimate that summer irrigation of an average private lawn accounts for over 40% of a residence's water consumption. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) claims that mowing those lawns amounts to about 10% of our air pollution!

While this is not good, the chemical impacts are even more troubling. The EPA has found that synthetic lawn care products negatively impact healthy soil, and are toxic to beneficial insects, birds, children and pets. Numerous studies by the National Academy of Sciences link lawn chemicals to various cancers, genetic defects and developmental/behavioral disorders. Obviously the caution signs posted on treated lawns are there for a reason.

Additionally, most lawns are routinely over-fertilized with synthetics that are inappropriately formulated. The EPA esti-

mates that just 35% of these fertilizers reach the grass plant. The remainder is volatilized into the air, seeps to ground water or runs off into surface water. Door County's ongoing battle with ground water contamination and excesses of cladophora and milfoil in surface waters bear witness to that statistic.

The good news: Much of the useable and visual pleasure of lawns is still possible without the impacts of standard synthetic lawn care. The book *Organic Lawn Care Manual* by Paul Tukey and the website www.safelawns.com are good sources of environmentally friendly lawn care information. For starters DCEC recommends that we:

- * Reduce our mown area(s) which will help preserve natural spaces, reduce resource use and limit green house gas emissions.
- * Consider manual or electric mowers and/or choose lawn care providers that do not use chemicals or gas mowers. Mow high and leave the clippings lay. They are good fertilizers.
- * Go natural and practice sustainable lawn care using natural products. They are readily available, work, cost about the same as synthetics and help promote

Please turn to "LAWNS"—page six

Garbage—from page five

By contrast, no new waste-to-energy plants are being planned or built in the United States, the Environmental Protection Agency says, even though the federal government and 24 states now classify waste that is burned this way for energy as a renewable fuel, in many cases eligible for subsidies. There are only 87 trash-burning power plants in the United States, a country of more than 300 million people, and almost all were built at least 15 years ago. Instead, distant landfills are the destination for most of the nation's trash. New York City alone sends 10,500 tons of residential waste each day to landfills in places like Ohio and South Carolina.

The reasons that waste-to-energy plants did not catch on nationally were the relative abundance of cheap landfills in a large country, opposition from state officials who feared the plants could undercut recycling programs and a "negative public perception." In the United States, individual states and municipalities generally decide what method to use to get rid of their waste.

Still, a 2009 study by the E.P.A. and North Carolina State University scientists came down strongly in favor of waste-to-energy plants over landfills as the most environmentally friendly destination for urban waste that cannot be recycled. Embracing the technology would not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions and local pollution, but also but also yield copious electricity, it said.

New York Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, who has championed green initiatives and ranked Copenhagen's waste-fueled heating on his list of environmental "best practices," has shied away from proposing to get one built. It has remained undone, not because of old technology—which has advanced—but because of the thorny issue of finding a building site. It's a "NIMBY" issue much like wind generation.

Waste-to-energy plants do involve large upfront expenditures,

and tight credit can be a big deterrent. Harrisburg, Pa., has been flirting with bankruptcy because of a \$300 million loan it took to reopen and refit an old public incinerator with the new technology.

Many countries that are expanding waste-to-energy capacity, like Denmark and Germany, typically also have the highest recycling rates; only material that cannot be recycled is burned. Attitudes could hardly be more different in Denmark, where plants are placed in the communities they serve, no matter how affluent, so that the heat of burning garbage can be efficiently piped into homes. Planners take pains to separate residential traffic from trucks delivering garbage, and some of the newest plants are encased in elaborate outer shells that resemble sculptures.

While new, state-of-the-art landfills do collect the methane that emanates from rotting garbage to make electricity, they churn out roughly twice as much climate-warming gas as waste-to-energy plants do for the units of power they produce. A 2009 E.P.A. study found that methane, the primary warming gas emitted by landfills, is about 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide, the gas released by burning garbage.

Condensed from N Y Times~JMV



A garbage fueled power plant in Vienna, Austria. Who says they have to be ugly?

Colorado—from page four

almost \$1 million in funds from the state and private groups, and enlisted attorney Susan Perkins, pro bono, to get a ruling from the state Public Services Commission that electricity from feedlot methane could be considered an alternative energy supply.

Because of the conservative nature of the community, with some people who are older and more conservative, the promotional effort was intended to win over the skeptics and old-timers, with one of the focus areas being a campaign in the schools. There a sixth grade was targeted for lessons on renewable energy, as a resource to educate the parents at home. To the business community, the whole project was pitched as an economic development catalyst, with a sister company of Vibrant looking for a location for a \$20 million solar manufacturing facility in Colorado, and Fowler is in the running for the 160 job employer.

Fowler's median income is about \$26,000 with 11 percent of the population under the poverty level, according to U.S. Census data. To older residents, the project has won acceptance as a way to reduce utility bills and as a poorer, rural community, the town was able to draw on some federal development resources that other areas could not secure. The project has won over 6th grader 11 year old Mitchell Fosdick, who won first prize for his science project on wind energy, and 78-year-old J.H. McCuiston, and a lot of people in between.

Condensed from: The Denver Post ~JMV

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Lawns—from page five

healthy soil. One caveat: Not all organic lawn products are environmentally friendly. A few can be more damaging than corresponding synthetics. Be cautious when shopping. A good resource that addresses this concern is: *The Truth About Organic Gardening*, by Jeff Gillman.

- * Identify and become knowledgeable about lawn fertility needs and care problems before jumping to quick fix solutions, thus avoiding misdiagnosis and mistreatment.
- * Use synthetic lawn care products only as a last resort. Use spot applications and avoid nonselective broadcast treatments.

We encourage everyone to consider the above recommendations this spring and into the future when planning our lawn care activities. Let's encourage our families and friends to do the same. If we rent, own a condo or frequent a golf course, let's petition the proprietors to evaluate their lawn care practices as well.

If we each do our part we can go a long way toward protecting Door County's vital resources while assuring healthy soil, clean drinking water, and clean surface water, in addition to reducing our carbon footprint. What a deal!

Give a
 Birthday
 Membership
 to DCEC
 This Year.

Help Keep Us
 40 Years
 Strong!

dcec membership application

() \$25 Individual () \$35 Family () \$50 Sustaining
 () \$100 Donor () \$_____ Other () \$15 Student/Limited

This amount would really help! Thanks!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Door County voter? () yes () no

Township or Municipality: _____

Email: _____ Please email me DCEC alerts:

Summer mailing address, if different:

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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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Please mail to: DCEC, P.O. Box 114, Fish Creek, WI 54212

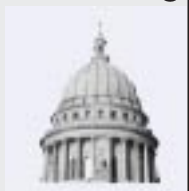


Annual Memberships Are Due!

REMINDER: Your membership in DCEC runs with the calendar year with renewals starting each November. *Final renewal reminders* went out in early March. If you haven't renewed yet, please do, and at as high a membership category as you can afford. Thank you for your support. You are DCEC!

Your Elected Officials

GOVERNOR James Doyle
 115 East State Capitol, Madison WI 53702
 (608) 266-1212 • governor@wisconsin.gov



STATE SENATOR Alan Lasee
 130 South State Capitol, Madison WI 53702
 (608) 266-3512 • Sen.lasee@legis.wisconsin.gov

STATE ASSEMBLY Garey Bies
 125 West State Capitol, Madison WI 53708
 (608) 266-5350 • Rep.bies@legis.wisconsin.gov

US SENATOR Russ Feingold
 505 Hart Senate Bldg., Washington DC 20510-4904
 (202) 224-5323 • russell_feingold@feingold.senate.gov

US SENATOR Herb Kohl
 330 Hart Senate Bldg., Washington DC 20510-4903
 (202) 224-5653 • http://kohl.senate.gov/gen_contact

US CONGRESSMAN Steve Kagen
 1232 Longworth House Office Building
 Washington DC 20515-4908
 (202) 225-5665
http://kagen.house.gov/IMA/issue_subscribe.htm

[Note: visit <http://www.vote-smart.org> if you don't vote in Door County. Just enter your zip code and they'll display all of your elected representatives with links to detailed fact sheets and contact information about every one]

DCEC'S Leadership

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 environmental council, inc.
 p.o. box 114
 fish creek, wi 54212

DCEC Celebrates Forty Years with a great Summer of Events!

0510



Dark milestone: History made.

IT HAS BEEN one of the elusive goals of seafaring nations almost since the beginnings of waterborne trade, but for nearly 500 years the idea has been dismissed as an impossible dream. Now, as a result of global warming, the dream is about to come true.

A journey that represents both a huge commercial boon and a dark milestone on the route to environmental catastrophe was completed for the first time last September 24th. No commercial vessel has ever successfully travelled the North-east Passage, a fabled Arctic Sea route that links the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific far more directly than the usual southerly cargo route. Explorers throughout history have tried, and failed; some have died in the attempt.

The German-owned vessels, Beluga Fraternity and Beluga Foresight, docked in the Dutch port of Rotterdam. It is the culmination of a two-month voyage from South Korea across the perilous waters of the Arctic, where an unprecedented ice-melt has at last made the previously impassable course a viable possibility.

This historic venture also brings out, with extreme visible emphasis, the drastic changes that are taking place on our planet—the results of global warming manifested in the diminished polar ice. Still there are skeptics who downplay the effect that global warming is having on our earth's climate. Weather pattern changes, and quite possibly, the frequency of "natural" disasters appearing in the news media almost daily. How much more is needed to define the urgency of taking all possible avenues to bring needed change to our present wasteful lifestyles and our reckless disregard for "sustainable" life on this depreciating planet? ~JMV

DCEC Endowment Fund

THE *DCEC ENDOWMENT FUND* exists so that the future of Door County's wild spaces and family farms can be ensured far into the future.

Every year, the fund grows. Every year that it grows, is one year sooner that DCEC can devote our efforts exclusively to protecting our county's beautiful environment.

You can help this important fund grow even faster by remembering DCEC in your estate. Each bequest, through your wills and estate plans, helps to bring us one step closer to financial independence, allowing us to take tough, sometimes unpopular, positions that protect our county for our future generations.

So, whether you can contribute now or later, please make a point of supporting *DCEC Endowment Fund*.

Legacies, memorials and direct gifts are all deeply appreciated. Please call, or have your advisor call, Jerry Viste at (920) 743-6003 for further information.

...and, after you read this newsletter, please pass it along to a friend.



door county
 environmental council, inc.
 p.o. box 114
 fish creek, wi 54212

DCEC Celebrates Forty Years with a great Summer of Events!



Dark milestone: History made.

IT HAS BEEN one of the elusive goals of seafaring nations almost since the beginnings of waterborne trade, but for nearly 500 years the idea has been dismissed as an impossible dream. Now, as a result of global warming, the dream is about to come true.

A journey that represents both a huge commercial boon and a dark milestone on the route to environmental catastrophe was completed for the first time last September 24th. No commercial vessel has ever successfully travelled the North-east Passage, a fabled Arctic Sea route that links the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific far more directly than the usual southerly cargo route. Explorers throughout history have tried, and failed; some have died in the attempt.

The German-owned vessels, Beluga Fraternity and Beluga Foresight, docked in the Dutch port of Rotterdam. It is the culmination of a two-month voyage from South Korea across the perilous waters of the Arctic, where an unprecedented ice-melt has at last made the previously impassable course a viable possibility.

This historic venture also brings out, with extreme visible emphasis, the drastic changes that are taking place on our planet—the results of global warming manifested in the diminished polar ice. Still there are skeptics who downplay the effect that global warming is having on our earth's climate. Weather pattern changes, and quite possibly, the frequency of "natural" disasters appearing in the news media almost daily. How much more is needed to define the urgency of taking all possible avenues to bring needed change to our present wasteful lifestyles and our reckless disregard for "sustainable" life on this depreciating planet? ~JMV

DCEC Endowment Fund

THE *DCEC ENDOWMENT FUND* exists so that the future of Door County's wild spaces and family farms can be ensured far into the future.

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