

# DCEC Newsletter

Environmental News for Door County



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FALL 2007

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## Wisconsin Must Act Now To Save Our Great Lakes

AROUND A HUNDRED PEOPLE GATHERED for our 2007 Annual Summer Program, at the Baileys Harbor Town Hall, where they experienced a superb presentation on the future of Great Lakes water. Ms. Frances Cannonizado, Outreach Director for the *Alliance for the Great Lakes* in Chicago, provided much valuable information on past and current proposals to divert Great Lakes Water to other parts of our county and the fight against those diversions.

Primarily, Ms. Cannonizado spoke about the need for the ratification of the *Compact for the Great Lakes*, an agreement between the governors of the eight states and the premiers of the two Canadian provinces that encompass the Great Lakes watershed. It is an agreement to protect against diversions of water from the Great Lakes watershed. Unfortunately, Wisconsin lawmakers have not yet even begun to consider ratification of the *Compact*. Pushing for Wisconsin's ratification of the *Compact* was what Ms. Cannonizado stressed as the most important work all could undertake in the next few months. DCEC will keep you posted on what's happening in Madison via our web site and newsletters.



Ms. Cannonizado Listens to a Question



Mike Madden accepts 2007 Environmental Citizen of the Year from Eileen Andera

Also, DCEC honored Mr. Mike Madden, with the 2007 Environmental Citizen of the Year Award. In presenting the award, DCEC president Eileen Andera praised Mr. Madden for his work as a teacher at Sevastopol School and for his resource protection work with such groups as the Door County Land Trust, Ridges Sanctuary and Crossroads at Big Creek.

DCEC encourages your support of the Great Lakes Charter. Please let your elected official know that you want this agreement ratified... today!

**SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!**



DCEC Incorporated in 1971 under the laws of Wisconsin as a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation

# County Park Board Stood Up for Environment

“DOOR COUNTY MUST LEARN TO BE CONSERVATION MINDED or we will ruthlessly destroy all that natural beauty that has been given our County to be enjoyed by all generations. This natural beauty is ours, during our lifetime, to enjoy and cherish, but not to destroy, and its significance in forming us as a people is far greater than the cultivated lands. We have heard much in our County and other parts of our Country about the increasing shortage of water—the more treeless areas we create, the less water we will have. An earnest Conservation Policy for the tree-covered areas is therefore of utmost importance in our County at the present time.

“Door County’s most valuable asset, both from a material and a spiritual standpoint, is the natural beauty. To preserve this is the inherited duty of all our citizens. In loving it we find our true self. Year by year the natural beauty of our county is diminishing at a threatening rate, and the day is not far distant when little will be left to show to succeeding generations the God-given wilderness the pioneers struggled with and which has made America great.

“Reports from the National Wild Life Institute, the Michigan Conservation Society, the Illinois Conservation Commission, and other conservation organizations testify to the same fast destruction of nature’s infinite gift in neighboring states. Our rocky and primitive shore lands are rapidly being built up, and the beauty that brought the visitors and summer residents to Door County is vanishing.

“We cannot have the wilderness and live in it, and without the lessons of the wilderness man cannot progress. It is the balance by which man weighs all his theories. As thinking

citizens, we must be concerned about the tomorrow, about those who follow in our footsteps. Every true American possesses an inherent love for his native land and wishes to build a civilization that will last for countless generations.

“The County Park Board keenly feels that our natural landscape and its wild life is of prime importance to the welfare of our county. A tree is the oldest form of life in our county. To watch over it generation after generation builds a human chain that can never be broken. The Park Board members realize it is their solemn obligation to the citizenry of our county to encourage and hasten the preservation and the protection of whatever is left of primitive Door County, and to encourage the rededication in the hearts of the people to the sacred task of putting back into Door County ...the beauty and the wealth of timberlands, swamps and shore lands.”

**County Board Park Committee** - Sid Telfer, Chairman, Tom Pinney, Wendolyn Rose

**Advisory Committee** - Jens Jensen, Grover M. Stapleton, Frank Oldenburg, Russell Bieri, William Beckstrom.

*(These are excerpts from a 1945 County Park Board Report to the entire County Board that resulted in the formation of many of the county park areas along with several town parks and school tree planting efforts throughout Door County in 1946. Even the most dedicated resource ravager has to recognize the eloquence, the seriousness, vision for the future and genuine concern for our vanishing resources shown by these servants of the citizens sixty years ago. **How would they view our conservation efforts today?**)*

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## Created Wetlands: an Alternative to Mound Systems

WE ALL KNOW ITS COMING! That somber day when you may be notified that your shore land wastewater system is defined as a failed system and you get replacement orders from the county. The current county inspection program and ordinances will dictate a new replacement with a time schedule for completion if your system is considered failed or obsolete.

Probably some of your friends and neighbors will be facing the same problem. It’s expensive and disruptive and you may not have a suitable site for a conventional replacement system. If this happens you will be faced with installing a mound system or an individual created wetland as an alternative for individual homes.

You can be prepared in advance and have it all arranged with your neighbors if they also have failed systems, to install a small cooperative effluent system utilizing a single created wetland for all of you.

You may have heard or read information on created wetland systems. They are, for reasons unknown, still not approved for use in Wisconsin. Systems of this type are being used *experimentally* in many areas of

Wisconsin and other states, but no one has taken the initiative to make them legally approved for common use. (Something to do with preserving the “status quo?”)

There is at least one functioning wetland absorption system working fine in the county: the village of Egg Harbor. Sevastopol’s is similar in function. It can easily be predicted that public pressure will eventually gain approval for household use, if there is sufficient public pressure brought to influence the powers in Madison and at our local level.

There are many advantages to a created wetland system that place it far beyond the desirability of a conventional mound: visual impact, maintenance and space requirements, and replacement costs. Initial costs are comparable to a mound system. Presently a Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Evaluation Study permit is required from the State if there is any anticipated discharge from the wetland system.

To utilize a wetland system you need an approved wastewater septic tank (conventional) which in turn is connected to a created wetland absorption field which, if large enough, could serve several homes, seasonal or

*Please see “Wetlands”—page six*

# BP Backs Down...for now...

IN LATE AUGUST, BP, THE BRITISH COMPANY formerly known as BP Amoco and prior to that as *British Petroleum*, announced that it was *volunteering* to not increase pollutant levels at their facility in Whiting, Indiana. After considerable public pressure and petitions, along with political opposition, BP issued a prepared statement wherein they volunteered not to increase any discharge of additional pollutants. Thanks to *the Alliance for the Great Lakes* for taking the lead in this battle.

However, there have been no official plans or statements by BP or the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to revoke the new permit or to mandate no increases in pollution. Many anxiously await an official word from BP to confirm that this change in pollution plans is permanent. Nothing has come forth. Many are of the opinion that we may wait a long time for any formalized change.

The planned increases, approved by a permit issued by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, would have made *daily* discharges of 1584 pounds of ammonia and 4,925 pounds of industrial solids into Lake Michigan a reality! These amounts represented a 54% increase of ammonia and a 35% increase of solid waste above what BP was already dumping into Lake Michigan.

It is simply unacceptable that a company that has spent millions of dollars to portray itself as environmentally sensitive would then turn around and propose to dump more ammonia and solid waste into our drinking water. BP's self-acclaimed proclamation as an environmental leader will be decimated if it dumps more toxic chemicals into the Great Lakes.

Notably, BP has been so successful in marketing its brand image tagline, "Beyond Petroleum," that many believe it is the *actual name* of the company. Many environmentalists accuse BP of merely "green-washing" their company image without really making genuine strides in alternative energy investment.

While BP has apparently backed down from its attempts to add more pollution to Lake Michigan, **Indiana officials recently gave BP permission to emit more air pollution than new federal standards permit.** In Illinois, **Conoco-Phillips and Marathon Oil are seeking similar permits for refinery expansions** and the Illinois EPA is currently considering issuing these permits. The Federal Clean Water Act has been on the books for 35 years, but states like Indiana still haven't adopted required "anti-degradation" rules to prohibit adding more pollution to lakes and rivers.

The Great Lakes account for 95 percent of the

surface freshwater in the U.S. and Lake Michigan provides drinking water for more than 30 million Americans, including the entire Chicago-metropolitan region. It is incomprehensible that *anyone* would seriously consider this plan and then approve it.

Citizens, legislators, governors, and anyone, who can see the present condition of the Great Lakes, Lake Michigan included, should demand that there be no increase of any *discharge of pollutants into our fresh water supply.* Those who may indicate these are small amounts and it's not that big an issue are unaware of the cumulative effect each pollutant source, combined with others, is having on the total water quality for the entire Great Lakes.

Contact your elected officials; local, state and federal, and let them know that maintaining the water quality of our Lake Michigan is foremost in your concerns and that you want to see these pollution discharge permits denied. Let's not allow our lakes to be dumping grounds for waste material from companies seeking profit at the expense of our waters. Do it!  
~JMV

[Ed. Note: visit <http://www.vote-smart.org> if you don't know who represents you. See page nine for details.]

## Local Lake Mich. News

YOU MAY HAVE HEARD OF PLANS to construct boat launching facilities and an extended dock at the Shauer Park location south of Jacksonport. This project defies all of the attributes of common sense in



**Underwater Blasting In Lake Michigan?**

that the plan is to remove rock strata out far enough to ensure sufficient depth for small boat traffic. With the existing shallow water depth, blasting/dredging for 1000 feet or more out into the Lake could be required. If forecasts for lake levels are accurate, more blasting will be needed much farther out as water levels recede.

The theory, for selecting Shauer Park, is that the bottom at this location is rocky. There would be no

**Please see "Lake Michigan"—page six**

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# Take a Stand Against ATV's in State Forests

## Wisconsin NRB Needs to Hear from You!

A CONCERTED EFFORT IS BEING MADE to install 45-60 miles of ATV trails in the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest (NHAL) in north central Wisconsin. It's DCEC's position that these trails must not disfigure these beautiful forests.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), reportedly acting on a master plan for the forest, formed a committee to study "sustainable" ATV trails in NHAL last March. Ironically named the NHAL Sustainable ATV Trail Stakeholders Group, this committee has proposed and mapped out 45-60 miles of ATV trails in Wisconsin's largest state forest. A majority of the committee seems intent on providing access to ATVs, no matter what.

The makeup of this committee was top heavy with business and economic interests. Only three organizations that could be described as some-

what "environmental" were represented on the committee of seventeen members. [see: related sidebar this page.]

But the governing body of the DNR, the Natural Resources Board (NRB), who will make the final decision on these trails sometime this winter, never directed the DNR to map out the ATV trails, at least according to NRB secretary John Welter.



**Pioneer Lakes Trail Gallatin National Forest ruined by thoughtless motorized recreation.**

photo by Phil Knight/MountainTime, used with permission

"Apparently, some people feel that the board (NRB) expressed a desire that there be ATV trail development in the Forest and instructed the department (DNR) to report back with plans for one or more routes. I feel that it is important to clarify this question before ATV options are presented to the public," wrote Welter on August 22. "In fact no desire or instruction on ATV use was expressed."

Once the DNR "presents the findings of the stakeholders, along with its own recommendations," he further wrote, "we will consider alternative proposals, the environmental impacts, the impacts on residents and other forest users, and the costs. We may decide to adopt the proposals that have emerged from the stakeholders' process, or to adopt a portion of the proposals, or to decline to permit ATV trail development."

The plan has met with widespread public opposition from both environmentalists and "silent sports enthusiasts." ATV trails were previously prohibited in Vilas County on county-owned land by a landslide referendum vote in 2004.

All of us can and must make their case against an ATV incursion in NHAL. Public information meetings on the stakeholders group's ATV trail proposal will be held in mid-September in north central Wisconsin. Currently, there is no mention or schedule of these meetings posted on the DNR web site. Visit the DCEC website <http://www.dcec-wi.org> where we have posted the schedule.

You can also make your objections against ATV trails in NHAL known to NRB officials by mail to: Wisconsin NRB, c/o Laurie Ross, 101 S. Webster Street, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921 or to [Laurie.Ross@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Laurie.Ross@Wisconsin.gov) via email.

Your swift action to help protect the NHAL, may help us protect our five wonderful state parks here in our county when ATV groups come knocking at our "Door" in the future.

**Please register you opposition today!**

## Stacking the Deck

PREDICTABLE RESULTS CAN OCCUR in any advisory body that appears to be "fair and balanced" when the appointees are carefully selected and stacked in favor of a desired outcome. Consider the composition of the NHAL Sustainable ATV Trails Stakeholders Group.

Here's the breakdown. We report... you decide. The NHAL stakeholders group consists of representatives from:

County Boards, the Wisconsin Towns Association, county Chambers of Commerce, and the Lac du Flambeau tribe: **8 members**

The County Forest Association, The Wisconsin ATV Association, the Wisconsin Snowmobile Association, local county ATV clubs, the Wisconsin State Trails Council, and a non-motorized recreational user group: **6 members**

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress and from two organizations whose purpose includes sustainable uses of natural resources and the conservation of natural resources: **3 members**

What kind of recommendations for ATV trails in state forests do you think this kind of group would ever reach?

(Source: *Concept Paper—Northern Highland - American Legion State Forest, Establishment of the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest Sustainable ATV Trails Stakeholder Group.* Download at: [http://dnr.wi.gov/master\\_planning/nhal/pdfs/NHAL-ATV-concept.pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/master_planning/nhal/pdfs/NHAL-ATV-concept.pdf))

# What You Can Do for Our Earth

LAST TIME, I TALKED ABOUT REUSING or “repurposing” would-be waste for practical purposes. Now I’d like to make it a little more fun to recycle by making craft articles to brighten up the house instead of filling up the landfills.

**Cheese Boxes**—Brie and other specialty cheeses come in lightweight wooden boxes that can be painted or otherwise decorated to hold thing-a-ma-gigs or doo-dads.

**Clear Plastic Clamshells**—Blueberries, cakes, fruit trays, etc. come packaged in clear plastic clamshell containers. Use the flat part of the box and cut out shapes like pumpkins, birds, Christmas ornaments flowers, grandkid’s first names, cookie-cutter shapes or free-form shapes. Use your imagination! Color the cutouts with permanent color markers or paint them with glittery transparent paint from the craft store. Then hang your new “stained glass” treasure in the window, string some together for the Christmas tree or stick them onto a mirror.

**Broken Ceramic or Glass Pieces**—Mosaic is back “in” again, so glue those broken pieces onto flowerpots or make cement stepping stones for the garden.

**Tomato Cage Christmas Tree**—This one sounds hard but isn’t and the kids loved doing it as they could watch a transformation happen with each step.

1. Turn an old wire tomato cage upside down and wire the feet together.
2. Paint with silver paint.



A Future Christmas Tree?

3. Paint flattened green leaves with gold paint.
4. Line the inside with pieces of bubble wrap hot-glued to the wires.
5. Wire a string of LED white lights (they are cool to the touch) around the bottom rung then going up and down the outside of the tomato cage.
6. Hot-glue the leaves to the bubble wrap wherever they look good. (Anywhere from 6 to 15 or so.)
7. Add bits of pearls or metallic shimmers to wherever they look good.
8. Top it with a bow on it and plug it in!

**Clear Drapery Hardware Box**—My friend bought new drapery rods that came in 4 foot and 6 foot clear plastic rectangular boxes. They were too perfect to throw out so we had to figure out some other use for them. We took shiny Christmas ornaments and a string of LED lights (again, they don’t burn hot) and slowly worked them up

into the long boxes, snapped the caps on and plugged them in. They look fabulous, if I do say so myself! *(A glass of wine helped inspire the idea, but is not needed to make this beautiful decoration.)*

Just look around at your “stuff” and think about other things you could do with it. I’m sure you can come up with plenty of ideas on you own. At “Fair Trade” stores you can see all sorts of useful items made with recycled bottle caps, gum wrappers, flattened soda cans and juice boxes and such. Join the growing number of “repurposers” around the globe to do your part and make a difference.

*Eileen Andera~DCEC President*

## Stand Against Municipal Sewer Expansion Anywhere

WE HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN MUNICIPAL SEWER expansion plans and conflicts for the last 37 years, the entire life of our organization. In each of these proposals the end result was the same. While the extension(s) may have been desired and improvements necessary, after the project was completed a normal request for annexation eventually occurred and the outcome was, and is, always the same.

Annexation of the lands served by new sewer lines always follows. The receiving municipality gains and the unlucky town loses some of its most valuable and vital tax base. Losses of tax base in *any* town, by annexation, road construction or other public project, means that the same amount of town operating expense has to be borne by the remaining taxpayers.

With few exceptions, property owners are

affected by a sewer-line expansion either as future users or as current property owners with functional and operational on-site systems who “happen to be on the route”. They are severely impacted by the costs associated with construction crossing their property, and the sewer-line’s hookup.

This has also proved to be a burden on each community throughout the county where sewer expansion was proposed and implemented. The resultant sprawl outside the boundaries of the community is quite easy to anticipate. Annexation does little to improve the financial conditions of the community doing the annexing. In most cases, it is detrimental.

Our commissioned study, with the Door County Land Trust, in 2005 made an in-depth analysis of the cost

*Please see “Sewers”—page six*

## Sewers (cont. from page five)

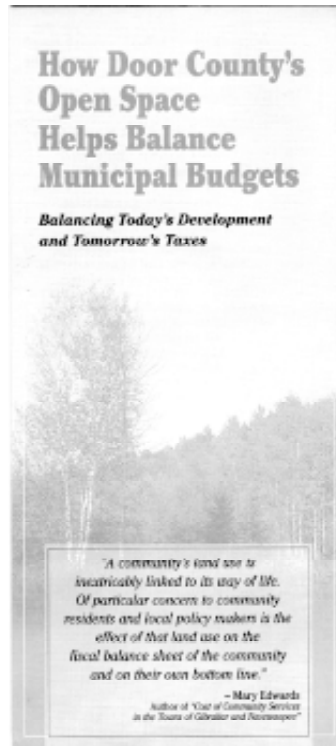
of community services for two county towns and revealed some startling facts. Every type of land use, other than open space (farmland and idle lands) and light industry, *was more costly for a community than the income generated by that land use.*

This is because additional services that most developed land uses require, such as police and fire protection, snow removal, and all the other related costs tied to residential developments. The complete study in its entirety is available for download at the DCEC website now. Go to: [http://www.dcec-wi.org/publications\\_dcec.html](http://www.dcec-wi.org/publications_dcec.html)

We suggest you also download the FAQ brochure you see [at right] as an introduction to the full study. It's also available on the same web page.

With all of these things in mind, we urge our county municipalities and villages to keep the present sewer lines within existing boundaries. Help keep aesthetic features intact within your unique communities.

Growth beyond boundaries does not benefit anyone but the developers. Look at the small towns and villages in our county. Where expansion and annexation has been allowed, local identities have been lost forever.



Download the FAQs at the DCEC website

## Wetlands (cont. from page two)

otherwise.

Many on-shore home lots are not large enough for a proper created wetland. Those situations would be ideal for a "neighborhood" cooperative single created wetland sufficient for a small number (2 or 3) residences. Larger cooperative ventures would necessitate forming a sanitary district with all of the legal requirements accompanying such an installation.

During the coming year, DCEC is planning public symposia explaining the construction, operation and benefits of created wetland systems with presenters who are actively involved in engineering, construction and maintenance of these new (to Wisconsin) effluent disposal systems. We hope to provide speakers who have had many years of operation at the River Edge Environmental Center and the school at Kettle Moraine Lutheran, which both use wetland systems.

Watch for the notice of these presentations. There will be more in-depth information in our next newsletter in November.

## Lake Michigan

(cont. from page five)

problem with littoral drift forming sandy shoals as in other locations, such as Jacksonport.

While Jacksonport village would be a logical location for this type of facility, the argument is made that the sandy bottom there creates an unstable location for a permanent dock facility. The argument is also made that several attempts have been made to install a facility and that no permanent structure remains in Jacksonport.

It would also seem logical that residents and businesses of that small village would benefit by any boat launch/dock facility and would engage in an effort to bring this project there, littoral drift notwithstanding. The added distance from Jacksonport to Clark Lake, as compared from Shauer Park, would also lessen the chance of water-borne lake invasives being transported directly into Clark Lake, a nearly pristine water resource.

ANOTHER PLAN AFFECTING OUR WATERS is the request to remove some Lake Michigan bottom gravel between the small, privately owned island just south of the Bailey's Harbor Yacht Club and shore property owned by the same individual. Low water levels have enabled the owner to use a multi-wheeled motorized vehicle to cross over to the small island.

This was halted by the Wisconsin DNR as an illegal operation. But the owner now wishes to create a ford to his island by removing gravel from the lake bottom area between the shore and the island, and building a roadway of rock rubble. This has apparently been sanctioned by the WDNR and would establish a dangerous precedent here in the county if not all over the state.

The DCEC has taken a strong position in opposition to both of these plans that fly-in-the-face of common sense and the rights of the public under the provisions of the Public Trust Doctrine established many years ago.

We would urge you to contact the DNR office in Green Bay and register your concerns over both of these proposals. Contact info: DNR Regional Headquarters, 2984 Shawano Avenue, PO Box 10448, Green Bay, WI 54307-0448, (920)- 662-5100.

~ JMV

visit the DCEC's website at:  
***www.dcec-wi.org***  
(almost completed!)

# My Door County Water in 10 years?



## Not If You Can Help It!

*If you're not already a member, please consider joining DCEC today. Help preserve the quality of the peninsula we love for now and for generations to come. Thank You.*

# 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: \_\_\_\_\_

*Summer mailing address, if different:*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## DCEC'S Leadership

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Eileen Andera, Sturgeon Bay

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Jerry Viste, Sturgeon Bay

#### **Membership Coordinator**

Ray Kostiuk, Fish Creek

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Ralph Valatka, Sturgeon Bay



## Your Elected Officials

### GOVERNOR James Doyle

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*[Ed. 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]*





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## **Annual Summer Program A Hit!**

**See Page One**

### **Climate Project Seminars Filled with Facts, Attendees**

THE CLIMATE PROJECT, Al Gore's famous slide show on global warming was presented by DCEC to standing room only audiences in early August, once in Sister Bay and once at Crossroads at Big Creek in Sturgeon Bay.

Sarah Utley, Science Department Chair at Beverly Hills High School in Los Angeles, daughter of members Bill and Phyllis Utley of Sturgeon Bay, made the presentations. Ms. Utley was one of a thousand volunteers personally selected and trained by Mr. Gore to make the presentations throughout the country.

She did numerous radio & press interview while in Door County. Here's a picture taken during her interview with Eddy Allen at WDOR.



Bill and Phyllis Utley of Sturgeon Bay, made the presentations. Ms. Utley was one of a thousand volunteers personally selected and

### **The DCEC Endowment Fund**

THE *DCEC ENDOWMENT FUND* EXISTS to fund the activities of the Door County Environmental Council far into the future.

Every year that the fund 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. This has become easier with the recent federal law allowing donors to transfer IRA balances *without first paying federal income taxes* on those amounts. (Consult your financial advisor, please.)

So, whether you can contribute now or later, please make a point of supporting the *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. Donate directly online at <http://www.dcec-wi.org> the official website of DCEC.

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