

DCEC Newsletter

Environmental News for Door County



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FALL 2009

In This Issue

Page 1

- Schauer Park Project spells disaster with a capital D.
- *A Sense of Wonder*: Now available for viewing.

Page 2

- The Great Pacific Garbage Patch—part two.
- Sturgeon Bay Town Board takes the right stand!

Page 3

- Genetically Modified Crops a big problem.

Page 4

- The Renewable Energy Task Force has a record-setting National Solar Home Tour.
- Decentralizing the power grid.

Page 5

- DCEC President, Eileen Andera, on “reusing.”

Page 6

- Report on the 2009 DCEC Annual Summer Program
- Germany takes a stand on Genetically Modified Crops

Page 7

- DCEC people, membership.

Back Page

- Having septic problems? DCEC announces new brochure on *Created Wetland Wastewater Treatment Systems!*

Schauer Park Saga Continues DCEC Opposes Channel Proposal for Jacksonport Park

The shorelines of Door County are unique. This resource is not found in any other part of Wisconsin and, with the exception of a few other places on the Great Lakes, is not found anywhere else in the world.

This uniqueness makes it even more important to ensure that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers make sound decisions that will protect this resource. Especially with a project of the magnitude now planned for Schauer Park.

Conclusions reached in a recent Environmental Analysis (EA) Study by the Department of Natural Resources and Lawrence University (along with the need to uphold the provisions of the Public Trust Doctrine) support the conclusion that this Schauer Park project will have serious long-term consequences.

The study and EA focused on typical dredge channels proposed by owners along the shorelines of Green Bay and Lake Michigan in Door County. Dredge channels are commonly 30 feet wide and extend from shallow water near shore to depths needed for navigation, possibly reaching further than 300 feet out from shore.

They found that there were biological impacts on the near-shore area of the lake, where the channels were dredged, called the littoral zone. These shallow waters provide spawning, nursery, and life-sustaining zones for thousands of fish, waterfowl, and/or aquatic organisms.

The study found that at all of the sites, dredging harmed the natural habitat with the level of harm dependent on the type of natural habitat; and, that the cumulative impact

Please see SCHAUER page five



A Typical Dredge Barge

Rachel Carson Feature Available to Groups

BILL MOYERS SAID “You cannot walk away unmoved,” from “A Sense of Wonder”—a film about the life of author/activist Rachel Carson. She has often been referred to as the “patron saint” of the modern environmental movement and she inspired many of the regulations that are in place today giving protection to diminishing resources.

Her 1962 book “Silent Spring” alerted the world to the dangers of chemical pesticides and created havoc with the chemical industry causing Rachel to be referred to as “that hysterical woman” which only succeeded in making her battles more intense.

Praising Carson for her work, **Al Gore** wrote that, “without [Silent Spring] the environmental movement might have been long delayed or never developed at all.”

Carson’s work and legacy lives on and the last year of her life is portrayed in “A Sense of Wonder,” a documentary-style film of a play written by and starring Kaiulani Lee, an

Please see CARSON—page two



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

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch—part two

Around 1900 Leo Baekeland, a Belgian chemist, started tinkering around in his garage in Yonkers, New York, working on the first synthetic polymer. Could anyone have foreseen that a hundred years later *plastic* would outweigh plankton six-to-one in the middle of the Pacific Ocean?

Baekeland was trying to mimic shellac, a natural polymer secreted by the Asian scale beetle and used at the time to coat electrical wires. In 1909 he patented a moldable hard plastic that he called *Bakelite*, which made him quite rich.

Chemists were soon experimenting with variations, breaking down the long hydrocarbon chains in crude petroleum into smaller ones and mixing them together, adding chlorine to get PVC, then introducing gas to get polystyrene. Nylon was invented in 1935 and found its first application in stockings.

After the Second World War came acrylics, foam rubber, polythene, polyurethane, plexiglass and more. It was an incredible outpouring of new plastic products. New, revolutionary clear plastic food wraps and containers preserved food longer and allowed people to live much further away from where it was produced.

Single-use plastic bags first appeared in the US in 1957



A Baby Sea Turtle—already a victim of plastic

and in foreign supermarkets in the late 1960s. Worldwide there are more than a trillion bags manufactured every year, although this upward trend is now leveling off and even falling in many countries. We reduced our plastic bag use by 26 per cent last year to 9.9 billion.

Bottled water entered the mass market in the mid-1980s. Global consumption is now 200 billion liters a year and only one in five of those plastic bottles is recycled. The total global production of plastic,

which was five million tons in the 1950s, is expected to hit 260 million tons this year.

Look around you. Start counting things made of plastic and don't forget your buttons, the stretch in your underwear, the little caps on the end of your shoelaces. The stuff is absolutely everywhere, forming the most basic infrastructure of modern consumer society. We are scarcely out of the womb when we meet our first plastic: wristband, aspirator, thermometer, disposable everything. We gnaw on plastic teething rings and for the rest of our lives scarcely pass a moment away without some contact with plastic in one form or another.

The benefits of plastic are phenomenal: convenience, consumer choice and profit. Except for a small percentage that has been incinerated, *every single molecule of plastic that has*

Please see PACIFIC—page five

DCEC Backs Sturgeon Bay Town Board

It is not often that a town board will take a position on an issue and stand by that decision in the best interests of the town through the long legal processes used to wear down most town boards.

It is rare, in Door County, where issues involving land use often lean favorably toward the permit applicant and not very frequently favor the people impacted by the project.

The common-sense position of the **Sturgeon Bay Town Board** on the Premier Concrete application to mine a new parcel at 1786 Tagge Road (East) should set an example for other town boards faced with issues that the affected constituents do not want.

It would be also a benefit for all towns/municipalities to enact an *impact* or *depletion* fee requirement to provide compensation for landowners impacted by a development or projects such as this proposal.

This fee would also serve as a compensatory fund for the *town* to make up for lost tax revenue on lands that have been altered and rendered unsuitable for traditional use and value.

The value of land that has been mined is *decreased considerably* from active farmland with traditional uses. Impact is always present for the surrounding community, whether it is visual, audible or causing degradation of air/

See TOWN page six

Carson cont'd. from page one

Obie award-winning actress from New York. Lee has been performing the play, worldwide, over the last 16 years and created the film based entirely on the play. The film depicts Rachel Carson at her home in Maine on the seashore during those last battle years.

DCEC has secured the exclusive exhibition rights to this film for northeast Wisconsin and is making "A Sense of Wonder" available, in turn, to all of the High Schools in Door County at the discretion of school staff.

Other non-profit groups are able to use the presentation free for public use by request with a small donation fee requested from for-profit groups. This is a wonderful presentation telling the frustration and challenges this great environmental leader endured during her last big adventure in her life.

Everyone should see and appreciate her story.

The film runs 55 minutes and was shot in high-definition video by Oscar Award-winning cinematographer Haskell Wexler (*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*) Direction is by Christopher Monger (*The Englishman Who Went Up A Hill But Came Down A Mountain*, starring Hugh Grant, *Waiting for the Light*, starring Shirley McClaine and *Girl From Rio*, best film Hollywood Film Festival.) The musical score relies heavily on the works of Beethoven.

For details on using the documentary contact the DCEC office at 920 743 6003 for availability and details.

Monsanto—Dow—DuPont Creating More Problems

These days there is a no more rare commodity in farming than *trust*. For generations, Oregon's Willamette Valley has been the foundation of the U.S. sugar beet industry, producing nearly all our country's seeds.

Such breeding becomes complicated when neighbors grow genetically similar crops and stiff Pacific winds, baffled by the Coast Range mountains, shove pollen every which way.

Willamette's growers have cooperated; establishing a system in which seed producers flag their plots on a collective map, giving fair warning of what is grown where. Voluntary distances between crops were established and, if abutting farms had a conflict in what they grew, they could usually figure it out.

It was a very complex system based on social relationships with **organic** seed farmers working with conventional other seed growers

That all changed when genetically modified (GM) beets arrived

Recently, some voluntary programs, like the Non-GMO Project, have arisen, supported by premium retailers like Whole Foods Market Inc. Companies verified by the project meet thresholds for GM presence in their products. Such thresholds are strict — 0.1 percent for seeds, for example — but are still more lenient than European standards.

Meeting such thresholds is difficult for growers because it is the nature of genes to flow. Cross-pollination between plants is a driver of evolution, and pollen can move large distances, aided by wind or buzzing bees. The buffer, or isolation, distance needed between crops is poorly understood and variable.

In the United States, GM crops entered farming in the mid-1990's after a government task force said that if the crops were determined safe for human consumption, then **they were safe to introduce into the environment**. Larger economic and environmental impacts, like the loss of biological diversity, were simply brushed aside.

The United States is well into its mass experiment with GM crops. Some 90 percent of soy and cotton crops include genes engineered by firms like Monsanto Co., Dow Chemical Co. and DuPont to resist weed killers and act as pesticides. Eighty-five percent of our corn crop is also genetically modified, and, in the form of high-fructose corn syrup, is found throughout the food system.

With GM genes so widely spread, some agriculture giants have had to move their conventional seed production out of the United States to meet strict foreign standards banning GM material. There could soon come a day, activists warn, that thanks to the drift of pollen, no ear of corn will be free of at least a trace of cells concocted by man.

These crops are safe to eat. The science on that is unequivocal, even in Europe, where a moratorium on new GM crops has existed for a decade. By most accounts, GM crops have been an economic benefit to non-organic farmers, simplifying field maintenance and reducing the number of hands needed for weeding.

All the GM crops on the market today are designed to either



increase the pesticide present in the plant or resist the application of weed killers like Roundup. By present standards, these are simple modifications: To create "Roundup Ready" sugar beets, Monsanto inserted a single gene into the beet's DNA from common soil bacteria.

More complex crops developed by biotech firms have stacked together pesticide and several types of herbicide resistance. But the companies' longstanding promises of crops that will resist drought or improve nitrogen fixation have produced few tangible results.

Slowly, USDA came to view biotech and non-biotech crops as identical, going in the direction of not closely examining the characteristics of a product in their deregulation decisions. There have been regional attempts to establish frameworks.

Several years ago, the Vermont Legislature passed a bill that would have made seed firms potentially liable for GM contamination. Gov. Jim Douglas (R) vetoed the bill. A similar bill in California was reduced in ambition and focused only on protecting non-GM farmers from patent lawsuits.

For organic farmers, economic liability is the most pressing concern. In the eastern part of the United States, traditionally, farmers have been obliged to fence in cattle. In the West, meanwhile, landowners are required to fence out roaming herds.

The same distinctions apply to crops. Europe has been busy erecting a complex regulatory apparatus requiring farmers to "fence in" their GM crops with isolation distances and liability funds. With no regulations, the United States has in effect required non-GM farmers to "fence out" GM crops, placing the economic burden on conventional and organic farming.

Slowly, USDA came to view biotech and non-biotech crops as identical, going in the direction of not examining closely the characteristics of a product in their deregulation decisions. Much now depends on what USDA finds in its first environmental impact statement, which will be on GM alfalfa, the crop implicated in the California court's 2007 decision. While it will not directly change coexistence policies, it will be the first federal look at economic impacts.

[Condensed from NY Times article by Paul Voosen of GREENWIRE 10/12/09] ~JMV

THE NATIONAL SOLAR HOMES TOUR in Door County had a record-breaking year in 2009.

For several years, your Renewable Energy Task Force has been the local sponsor for the American Solar Energy Association's annual tour of homes that use solar energy.

We have a number of forward-thinking homeowners who have already installed solar technology and are willing to invite people into their homes each year to have a look and get some first-hand advice.

This year five homes participated in Door County, and attendance broke all previous records at 195 people.

Solar homes feature three kinds of solar technology: solar photo-voltaic, solar hot water and passive solar heating.

Solar photo-voltaic uses solar panels that generate electricity. Homeowners with these systems often greatly reduce their electricity bills. Sometimes, when solar is combined with wind energy, they can sell their excess power back to the utility grid.

Solar hot-water uses solar panels to heat a transfer



liquid, that then transfers that heat to a system, generally in a basement, that heats a home's water to be used for general heating in a home or for, well... hot water.

Passive solar heating is a major design element in a home's construction, usually using a southern facing outer wall that is mostly windows. Incoming sunshine then passively heats the interior of the house.

Attendees and homeowners were also able to talk about the various tax and rebate incentives that are currently available for solar technology.

If you're interested in solar... don't miss next year's tour, the first Saturday in October!

In the meantime, watch for the release of the next edition of our pocket-sized Door County Renewable Energy Resource Guide. It's chock-full of great information about who is doing what to whom with renewable energy in our county.

As always, feel free to contact me, Don Pardonner, at 839-1182 or infoRETF@dcec-wi.org. Visit us at www.RenewableDoorCounty.com on the web.

DE-centralizing Power Generation

We are witnessing a major change in utility companies' thinking around the world, with the good result of lessening CO2 emissions and more efficient energy transfer.

Power loss that presently exists in our established power grid can be traded for more efficient local power generation with capabilities for utilizing the heat from that generation to provide economical residential and commercial heating. This is much like the system that was once in place in Sturgeon Bay that used steam from our local generating plant to heat businesses and schools.

This trend in Europe and other areas of the world, where economics and environmental concerns have replaced conventional thinking, is away from using extensive power grids as the major supply source for local energy needs.

Concerns about energy security, climate change, and increasing energy prices make many renewable energy and energy efficiency measures and applications very attractive in a number of different settings.

The World Bank's funding for renewable and efficient energy projects in developing countries rose 87 per cent during the past year to nearly \$2.7 billion, reflecting the growing interest and demand for environmentally-friendly sources of power.

Renewable energy and energy-efficient investments made up 35 per cent of the bank's energy commitments for the year

—up from 13 per cent per year on average in the early 1990s—with 95 projects in 51 countries, as well as two cross-border projects.

The bank noted that high energy prices and acute power shortages have led to an increased demand for energy efficient projects, including automated meter reading systems and efficient lighting measures.

The massive US financial bailout plan, signed into law recently, renews existing tax credits for renewable energy and includes rebates for plug-in hybrid drivers. Representatives from the wind and solar industries have lobbied for months to extend the credits that ensure continued growth.

Without these supports in place, they warned, business would stall resulting in thousands of lost jobs. Also important to the clean-tech industry is \$800 million in available bonds for renewable energy generation facilities from renewable sources, such as biomass and geothermal.

For solar, the law extends the 30 percent tax credit for solar residential and commercial installations for eight years. For small wind turbines under 100 kilowatts, the federal government will now give a tax credit of up to \$4,000 for the next eight years. Residential geothermal systems earn a \$2,000 tax credit. And credits for marine power systems were extended eight years as well.

~JMV

What You Can Do for Our Earth

Since I began writing this column four years ago my friends and relatives have made it a point of showing me the reused and re-purposed items around their homes, often followed by a “Put that in your column.” So, here are their ideas:
Old broomstick, golf club, rake handle or ski poles:

1. Install hooks to the ceiling or between rafters in the laundry area to hang clothing, or in the garage to hang wet snowsuits or hunting apparel
2. Use them for garden stakes.
3. Use them as an arm extender for a paint roller or attach to a broom to get the spider webs from the high ceilings by duct-taping the handles together.

Old prescription bottles:

Use them to hold beads, jewelry, sewing needles, seeds, paperclips, tacks or any small item.

Old golf bag:

1. Use it in the garage to hold rakes, hoes or shovels



upside-down.

- 2 The bag can also hold baseball bats and the pockets hold the baseballs.

Old towels:

1. Cut them up for cleaning rags.
2. Use them to wipe down the wet dog or cat.
3. Donate them to an animal shelter for bedding or clean-ups.

Old laundry basket:

1. Use for recycling cans and bottles.
2. Corral the kid’s basketballs, baseballs, soccer balls and footballs in the garage.
3. Use in the garden as you pull and tote weeds.
4. In the trunk they can be used to hold loose stuff or to hold your grocery bags upright.

So, there you go. I put it in my column. Now, keep the good ideas coming so we all can do our part and keep the “stuff” out of the landfills!

Eileen Andera, DCEC Co-President

SCHAUER-cont’d.

could have dramatic impact.

There was more silt and fewer types of macro invertebrates (animals with backbones larger than .05 millimeter) in dredged channels. These changes most likely rendered some of these dredged channels unsuitable for fish spawning, especially in cobble substrate, and possibly affected their ability to function as nursery habitat.

It is clear: dredging these channels disturbs the natural environment and causes a conversion from a natural, local environment to a potentially non-native, unnatural condition resulting in expansion of aquatic plants into areas where they were not previously found.

Consequently, alternatives with less of an impact must be identified and utilized to protect the ecosystem. The Department of Natural Resources must review these effects in the light of the department’s responsibility to uphold the Public Trust Doctrine.

In view of the conclusions reached in the (EA) study and because of the mandate to uphold the provisions of the Public Trust Doctrine, one must conclude that any project of the magnitude proposed at Schauer Park would have serious consequences far into the future.

Of all the alternatives considered in the study, no dredging is probably the best option for the Great Lakes shoreline ecosystem to remain in as natural a state as possible.

The wisdom and advice of former UW Ecologist Dr. Jim Zimmerman, that Lake Michigan whitefish spawning grounds remain untouched, should be heeded. The Schauer Park proposal must never be allowed to decimate one of the most significant spawning areas for the entire Lake Michigan whitefish population.

~JMV

PACIFIC—cont’d.

ever been manufactured is still somewhere in the environment, and some 100 million tons of it are floating in the oceans.

A dead albatross was found recently with a piece of plastic from the 1940s in its stomach. Even if plastic production halted tomorrow, our planet will be dealing with its environmental consequences for thousands of years. An estimated 70 per-cent of marine plastic debris ends up on the bottom of the ocean—water bottles sink fairly quickly. It will remain there tens of thousands of years. It may form a layer in the geological record of the planet. Even possibly, some microbe may evolve that can digest plastic and find itself supplied with a vast food resource. **In the meantime, what can we do?**

What we cannot do is clean up the plastic in the oceans. “It’s the biggest misunderstanding people have on this issue,” experts say. “They think the ocean is like a lake and we can go out with nets and just clean it up. People find it difficult to grasp the true size of the oceans and the fact that most of this plastic is in tiny pieces—and it’s everywhere. All we can do is stop putting more of it in, and that means redesigning our relationship with plastic.”

Watch for Part 3 in our next newsletter,

~JMV

DCEC's Annual Summer Program 2009

ATTENDEES AT OUR Annual Summer Program last August were not disappointed by the presentation of our keynote speaker Valerie Fons.

Fons is one of few humans ever to complete a canoe trip from the Arctic Ocean, in Northwest Territories, Canada, to Cape Horn in Chile.

Fons' presentation, "Paddling Past the Pond," is a slide-show account of her 21,000-mile trip from the Arctic Ocean to Cape Horn and called the "Two Continent Canoe Expedition."

Her presentation was neither travelogue nor conceit. Fons' experiences showed what it takes to think, plan and paddle beyond one's horizons. She provided deep insights on how, why, what, when and where a paddler hatches a vision, makes their plan and paddles past the local pond.

Fons also included observations on how a diversity of cultures relating to their natural resources and elements of geographical place can inform our own relationship with the earth.

Fons brought along several artifacts of her trek. One was the inside ear bone of a Right Whale, which she found on a beach in Argentina. The other was a rock from the shoreline on the tip of Argentina, Tierra Del Fuego. It had been worn perfectly round by the intense wave actions of the seas in that area.

She also brought along one of her high-tech canoes and some quilts depicting her journey, which were displayed in front of the stage of the Baileys Harbor Town Hall.

In addition to being an ultimate canoeist, Fons has taught Watershed Management on the adjunct faculty at Michigan State University and was winner of a *Take Pride in America Award* from the US Department of the Interior for building public and private partnership for natural resource protection and responsible use.

As part of the Eddie Bauer Mississippi Challenge she canoed the 2,348-mile length of the Mississippi River from Itasca to mile zero (90 miles south of New Orleans) in 19 days, setting a Guinness world-record. She completed the *AuSable Canoe Marathon*, the longest non-stop canoe race in North America (120 miles), in less than 17 hours.

She is also a mother of six, a United Methodist pastor and the owner of Bread and Water LLC, a Washington Island Travel Green business. She's the president of LAUNCH (Lake Adventures Uniting Nature and Children with Hospitality) and chairperson of the Washington Island Canoe and Kayak Race, Expedition & Symposium.

Another event that occurred at the program included a special honor for Jon "Fritz" Renner, a long-time and valued DCEC board member who had recently passed away.

His daughter Ariel Wren Pate, of Minneapolis; and his sister, Kerstin Conner, of Illinois, accepted Fritz's honor.

DCEC schedules its Annual Summer Program for the second or third Wednesday of each August. If you haven't attended one yet, mark your calendar right now for next year!

Germany: No to GM Crops



German Agriculture Minister Ilse Aigner has joined the European mutiny over genetically modified crops. By banning Monsanto 810 (MON 810), a widely grown pest-resistant variety of corn, Germany has thrown its weight behind a growing European rejection of genetically modified crops. Aigner said there was enough evidence to support arguments that MON 810, which is the only GM crop widely

grown in Europe, posed a danger.

Germany's move, which takes effect immediately, goes against the European Commission's decision to support the lifting of bans on planting MON 810. A ban on MON 810 has already been imposed by governments in France, Austria, Hungary, Greece and Luxembourg. In the UK, the Welsh Assembly has declared the country GM free.

Supported by Britain, Finland, the Netherlands and Sweden, the Commission argued last month that moves to outlaw MON 810 on the grounds that it is dangerous were unjust because it has been deemed safe by scientists at the European Food Safety Authority. MON 810 was first approved for commercial use in the EU in 1998 and has been permitted as a commercial crop in Germany since 2005.

More than 70 per cent of German consumers support a ban on GM crops for food. Monsanto has repeatedly argued that MON 810 crops are safe and has tried to encourage their use as a cheap and plentiful food. They are widely grown in the US, Latin America and China. But opponents insist that too little is known about GM crops and their long-term genetic impact on wildlife and the food-chain.

The German ban will now be analyzed by the Commission, amid

fears it could trigger trade tensions with the US. Under World Trade Organization rules, the US administration has the right to retaliate. Lobbyists for the biotechnology industry in Germany described the decision as a setback for science and for the economy. They warned that it would prompt biotechnology companies to relocate to other parts of the world.

Condensed from the Guardian UK

~JMV

TOWN-cont'd.

water quality.

Towns, having village powers, are enabled by law to create ordinances to put these regulations in place and enforce them to compensate property owners for actions detrimental to their quality of environmental assets, tranquility of place and property.

In addition, residents and property owners, who are going to be affected by projects such as this, would be wise to **immediately** initiate documentation of the land value of their property, the air quality and present noise status in their neighborhood, and a legal documentation of water availability. These can be obtained by:

Having the property appraised by a certified appraiser and legally recorded,

Conducting and recording a professional noise level evaluation at the present time, with accurate instruments,

Retain a certified plumber or well-driller to document and record present/extended water level in the well in addition to water quality.

This documentation will give the property owner legal recourse to challenge the impact that such projects will have in the future and secure adequate compensation for the losses.

~ JMV

**Santa Suggests A
Perfect Gift
for the
Holidays!**



**A Gift
Membership
in the DCEC!**

It's soooo-ho-ho easy! Just fill out the form to the right and write in large letters across the top:

"GIFT MEMBERSHIP."

*Please include your name & address on your check so we can acknowledge your gift to the lucky recipient!
Happy Holidays!*

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



REMINDER: A gift membership to DCEC is a great way to do a favor for a friend or relative. It's also a great way to enlighten newcomers to Door County about our fragile environment. Use the form above, in any membership amount, and mark it "GIFT." Make sure your mailing label is attached on the back or send us your name and address separately. Enclose payment and we'll do the rest!

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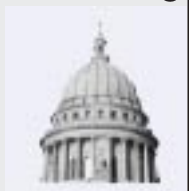
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[Note: visit <http://www.vote-smart.org> if you don't vote in Door County. Just enter your zip code and they'll display all of your elected representatives with links to detailed fact sheets and contact information about each one.]



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**Schauer Park Project—
a recipe for disaster.
See page one.**

1109

ANNOUNCING! The New DCEC Created Wetland Brochure

DCEC is proud to announce completion of a brochure explaining the use, operation and construction of *created (engineered) wetland systems* for homeowners. These radical new systems have been in operation in several areas of the state and have been successful in treating household waste in areas where use of a conventional system is not possible.

The new brochure was done in collaboration with Dave Flowers, PE, BCEE, of Natural Water Solutions, LLC of Cedarburg, Wisconsin.

Wetland systems rely on growing plants' root systems to soak up and ingest nutrients from effluent wastewater after it's been treated by bacterial action in a septic tank.

Homeowners faced with replacement of a failed or improper wastewater system should investigate the possible use of a created wetland system as an option to a mound. The cost is comparable to that of a mound, and the life of a wetland system is estimated at 25 years.



Tom Mellon on his school's created wetland.

Replacement cost of a created wetland is considerably less than a mound.

These systems do require adequate sunlight to enable the top-growing plants to perform their function as consumers of moisture and nutrients, and the growing plants do require annual maintenance.

We are thankful for the support and expertise made available to DCEC by Dave Flowers, PE of Cedarburg, Wisconsin and Tom Mellon,

Science/Biology instructor at Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School at Jackson, Wisconsin, who have been leaders in the promotion of these created wetland systems.

You can access the brochure on line at our web site: www.dcec-org or you can request a hard copy by emailing info@dcec-wi.org or calling the DCEC office at 920 743 6003.

Watch for a feature story in our winter newsletter on Door County municipalities that are using Natural Wetland Systems.

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



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**COMPLEMENTARY COPY
PLEASE TAKE HOME!**

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DCEC is proud to announce completion of a brochure explaining the use, operation and construction of *created (engineered) wetland systems* for homeowners. These radical new systems have been in operation in several areas of the state and have been successful in treating household waste in areas where use of a conventional system is not possible.

The new brochure was done in collaboration with Dave Flowers, PE, BCEE, of Natural Water Solutions, LLC of Cedarburg, Wisconsin.

Wetland systems rely on growing plants' root systems to soak up and ingest nutrients from effluent wastewater after it's been treated by bacterial action in a septic tank.

Homeowners faced with replacement of a failed or improper wastewater system should investigate the possible use of a created wetland system as an option to a mound. The cost is comparable to that of a mound, and the life of a wetland system is estimated at 25 years.



Tom Mellon on his school's created wetland.

Replacement cost of a created wetland is considerably less than a mound.

These systems do require adequate sunlight to enable the top-growing plants to perform their function as consumers of moisture and nutrients, and the growing plants do require annual maintenance.

We are thankful for the support and expertise made available to DCEC by Dave Flowers, PE of Cedarburg, Wisconsin and Tom Mellon,

Science/Biology instructor at Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School at Jackson, Wisconsin, who have been leaders in the promotion of these created wetland systems.

You can access the brochure on line at our web site: www.dcec-org or you can request a hard copy by emailing info@dcec-wi.org or calling the DCEC office at 920 743 6003.

Watch for a feature story in our winter newsletter on Door County municipalities that are using Natural Wetland Systems.

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