DCEC Newsletter

Environmental News for Door County

SUMMER 2008

published and © 2008 by
door county environmental council
p.o. box 114 - fish creek, wi 54212
(920)743-6003 fax: (920)743-6727
www.dcec-wi.org
email: info@dcec-wi.org

In This Issue

Page 1
- **"Great Lakes Water Wars: Still a Threat" features Peter Annin as Keynote Speaker at our Annual Summer Program. August 20th at the Baileys Harbor Town Hall, 7:00 pm.**

Page 2
- **Sustainability's the Issue!**
- **A history of Door County sustainable agriculture.**

Page 3
- **More excellent programs.**
- **An update of what's going on with the Great Lakes Compact.**

Page 4
- **If you missed our Created Wetlands seminar, check out this synopsis by Jerry Viste!**

Page 5
- **DCEC President Eileen Andera has more tips on saving the environment.**
- **Update on Hines Dragonfly Habitat, the fight continues.**

Page 6
- **DCEC takes the lead in protecting Door County Water!**

Back Page
- **The shocking truth about Liberty Grove septic systems!**

Award Winning Author & 11 Year Newsweek Veteran: August 20th

Peter Annin Keynote Speaker at DCEC's Annual Summer Program

Peter Annin

We are all in for a treat at this year's DCEC Annual Summer Program! We have been fortunate to secure an appearance by *Newsweek* veteran reporter and award-winning author, Peter Annin, as our keynote speaker.

Annin is the author of *The Great Lakes Water Wars*, a nonfiction history of attempts to divert Great Lakes water. His topic will be *Great Lakes Water Wars: Still a Threat?* He is considered by many to be the world's leading expert on water diversions of the Great Lakes.

Annin's book focuses on the threats of water diversions of the Great Lakes: past, present and future. In it he places significant importance on the disastrous history of water diversions of the Aral Sea, which have, for all intents and purposes, made it almost completely disappear.

Annin spent for 11 years at *Newsweek*. While there, Annin covered domestic terrorism and environmental issues. He was *Newsweek's* chief roving correspondent for the Oklahoma City bombing, the Branch Davidian standoff in Waco, the Unabomber and the Freeman confrontation in Montana.

At *Newsweek's* Houston bureau, he covered environmental stories ranging from droughts in the southwest to hurricanes in the southeast, from ecological recovery efforts on the Great Lakes to wind power stations on the Great Plains and forest fires in the far west. Annin also received wide notice for his in-depth coverage of the causes and consequences of the dead-zone in the Gulf of Mexico.

"Peter couldn't be coming here at a better time," said Jerry Viste, DCEC executive director. "The Great Lakes Compact, now approved by the eight states and two Canadian provinces bordering the Great Lakes, is pending before the US Congress. If passed here, and approved by Canada's parliament, it will become a treaty between the two countries."

According to Viste, passage is anything but certain, as droughts and diminishing aquifers in the American west may provide incentives for western lawmakers to oppose approval of the Compact.

"Our Great Lakes are one of the wonders of the world: dwarfing the Grand Canyon, they are absolutely vital to the health and economy of our region. We need to vigorously protect them," said Viste. "Now, as never before, we need the help of people who love Door County, but vote in other states, to encourage their legislators to vote in favor of the Compact."

"Peter Annin's presentation will illustrate how vital an issue this is for us, here and now,"

Please see "ANNIN" page three

FOCUS ON: Sustainable Agriculture in Door County

Long ago, in 1985, a group of farm folks asked the Environmental Council Board if the organization would like to become involved in the sustainable agriculture movement that was beginning to become active in Wisconsin.

As then president of the Council, and as an active farm operator in southern Door County, I felt an extra urge to become involved in this new philosophy for reliable methods of farming, with less costly and less harmful chemical use and dependence.

With the Board's approval it wasn't long before we had organized a wide and varied group of interested farm people and secured the services of a coordinator to guide the efforts in the right direction.

Support and operational money soon became available from the State of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture; under grants from the oil overcharge funds held by the State, after the oil companies were found guilty of excessive profits.

We were off and running with some money and a hired coordinator. There was a lot of local interest by farmers wishing to cut down on their expenditures and have a more responsible way of keeping soil fertility at accepted levels.

This loose organization of farmers throughout the county and northeast Wisconsin was soon very active. They were radical thinking people with an eye on the future. I use the term radical because traditional "more-is-better" farm folks viewed this new thinking as contrary to the proper progressive way to operate a farm and make money.

Others viewed sustainable farmers as "those organic people" who would slowly starve or go out of business because of such conservative resource management and because of the lessened use of artificial fertility with commercial fertilizer.

They were wrong on both counts; sustainable farmers still used commercial fertilizer and herbicides, but were more selective and disciplined with their use of natural supplements.

Real organic farming is an entirely different concept as it is a labor-intensive method of making use of natural processes and use of natural fertility supplementation. There is a big difference but the two sometimes go hand-in-hand, adding to the past confusion.

The organization grew and became well known statewide with a big following of dedicated farm people throughout northeast Wisconsin. The farmer network became more visible with the beginning of a series of Sustainable Agriculture Institute classes held each week throughout the winter.

Farm folks looked forward to these "classes" as a reliable source of new information with presenters from far away as New Zealand. A statewide sustainable agriculture gathering was held in Door County with a two-day festival on the Don Rudolph farm north of Sturgeon Bay. Speakers with varied expertise came to share their knowledge to benefit the sustainable group and those others who came out of curiosity.

All this happened while opponents of sustainable farming methods were having a fine time trying to hold this new limited input farming method accountable far beyond the expectations of the conventional farming methods.

They expected miracles and miracles didn't happen. Sustainable methods caught on for many of the farmers of the county, who were good with management practices that supported sustainability. Rotational grazing, firm dedicated rotation of crops, natural legume nitrogen generation, proper animal waste utilization and control, and a host of other practices are still in use today on many of the sustainable farms continuing from those early days.

Some of the farm operators, who were lacking in good management skills, had hoped that becoming sustainable would carry them through their difficult financial times. They were disappointed, as no miracles happened to help them through their difficulties and they eventually changed occupations.

Those who were, and are successful managers, continue on with sustainable practices today and are operating in the black, much to their credit and vision.

The changes that have taken place in the last decade in agriculture have limited sustainable participation because of the trend toward larger farm operations with, in most cases, hired management.

With a focus on maintaining cash flow to support their financial obligations, large farms are too often delegate hands-on operations to a hired management, with goals to meet for production and ultimate profit. Unfortunately, this is the trend that is happening right now with big time financial backing from processors who need capacity and volume at the cheapest method possible.

The often heard argument is that farms need to be bigger to survive has effectively caused a decline in small family farms and

Please see ""SUSTAIN"—page six

History Teaches the Importance of Sustainable Societies

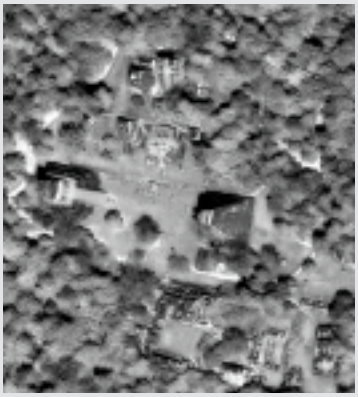
Watching public television often brings out stories from the past that seem to directly correlate to modern events or give warning of things that are possible in the future. Most recently, the Jungle Story featured the ancient city ruins that are found deep in the jungles of Guatemala and Cambodia.

These ruins, which have recently been discovered and are barely accessible through deep jungle growth, have complex remnants of buildings from hundreds, perhaps thousands, of years ago. Overgrown with jungle trees these ruins were completely hidden from view.

Infrared satellite images show that these sites were cities with possibly millions of people as dwellers and extending for several miles in all directions. Something happened to cause the demise of these cities and everyone living there without a trace.

The theory is that as these ancient cities expanded with population, and as they removed the vegetation to create room for people and growing crops, they also caused the area to eventually become arid and unsuitable to support life. The crops failed and

Please see "JUNGLE"—page six



NASA thermal imaging of Jungle Ruins Actually Covered by Vegetation

DCEC's "Other" Two Big Events: Aug 13th & Sept 16th

Jamie Cross

In addition to our great Annual Summer Program on August 20th, DCEC is bringing you two additional programs dealing with Door County's most important resource: our water.

On Wednesday, August 13th, we're teaming up with the Alliance for the Great Lakes and Crossroads at Big Creek for "Great Lakes Restoration: One Community at a Time."

Guest speakers for this event are Jamie Cross, Outreach Program Manager, Alliance for the Great Lakes and Coggin Herringa, Director and Naturalist, Crossroads at Big Creek.

They will be presenting an update of current news of the Great Lakes, with special focus being given to the Great Lakes Compact, currently pending in the US Congress.

They will also introduce a "tool kit" from the Alliance that can be used by individuals and organizations to plan, fund and implement local environmental projects to benefit the Great Lakes.

A joint project between the Alliance and Crossroads under the "One Community at a Time" program will be presented in detail

Then, on Tuesday, September 16th, we'll be presenting another evening at Crossroads entitled "Threats to Your Drinking Water."

Maureen Muldoon

Our presenter, Maureen Muldoon, PhD, should feel right at home in Door County as the topic of her PhD research and dissertation was our county's underlying dolostone strata. Muldoon is associate professor of hydrogeology and environmental geology at UW Oshkosh.

She'll be discussing the unique dolostone of our Niagara Escarpment and how pollutants coming from even miles away can affect our groundwater.

Remember if you have any burned out compact-fluorescent bulbs, that DCEC provides free disposal of them. Please make sure that any you bring are well wrapped to prevent breakage.

Both of these programs start at 7:00 pm and are at Crossroads at Big Creek, Collins Learning Center on Michigan Street, just east of Hwy 42-57.

For additional information, email us at info@dcec-wi.org or call us at (920) 743-5094,

Great Lakes Compact Nears Final Approval

On July 23rd the Great Lakes Compact moved a step closer to implementation when a resolution was introduced jointly in Congress. The resolution was co-sponsored by thirteen Great Lakes senators to ratify the agreement between the eight Great Lakes states and two Canadian provinces to not divert water outside the Great Lakes watershed. Senators Herb Kohl and Russ Feingold from Wisconsin along with Illinois Senator Barack Obama were included among the co-sponsors of the resolution.

After much compromising and effort to pass this document, Pennsylvania became the eighth and last state to pass the Compact on July 3rd. The Compact now needs approval of Congress to become a legal, international binding document protecting our Great Lakes from diversion. It is now the job of our congressmen and senators to ensure that our Compact is ratified as soon as possible, even before the August recess.

The citizens of Wisconsin owe a debt of gratitude to our legislative champions, Senators Mark Miller, John Lehman, Rob Cowles, and Bob Lauch, and Representatives Jon Richards and Mark Mason who were leaders in negotiating the details of the Great Lakes Compact for Wisconsin.

Thank you to all of them!

DCEC Expands Web Site

photo: Ralph Valatka

Jerry Viste & Eileen Andera share a laugh with the audience while announcing that the Zimmerman Ecological Maps and most of DCEC's publications are now available online. You can download the maps and most of our publications at www.dcec-wi.org.

ANNIN—from page one

said Viste.

Annin received his bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Wisconsin, and his master's degree in international affairs from Columbia University. Currently he is associate director of the *Institutes for Journalism and Natural Resources*. His book, *The Great Lakes Water Wars*, was published in 2006.

This year's program will be at the Baileys Harbor Town Hall, Wednesday, August 20th at 7:00 pm. The program is free, open to the public and refreshments will be served after the presentation.

Don't forget that DCEC provides free small compact-fluorescent light bulb disposal at each of its events. Please make sure they're securely wrapped to prevent breakage.

Created Wetlands Seminar A Hit!

Tom Mellon, biology/science teacher at Kettle Moraine Lutheran School (KMLS) presented extensive and detailed new information on *created wetlands* at our July 16th seminar at Crossroads at Big Creek. KMLS, with 425 students, has been using a created wetland as its sole wastewater treatment program since 2001. Mellon oversaw the installation of the system and continues to supervise its operation as a living ecological laboratory for his students.

Their wetland system has been working with great success.

The students at the school have been involved with the research and development of aspects that lend easily to educational projects. A wind powered air injection system along with a solar powered recirculation pump, operating on batteries, is part of the students' involvement.

The system was put in place to replace failed metal holding tanks that were leaking, evident because more gallons were removed than were metered going in: a good indication that groundwater was getting into the old tanks. No one knows what was leaking.

The cost for pumping those old tanks was in excess of $10,000 a year to accommodate 425 students. A decision was made by the administration to install a created wetland system as a long-range solution and to eliminate the hauling cost and nuisance of a holding tank system.

Dave Flowers, a professional engineer working specifically with wetland systems, was contracted to design and plan KMLS's system. Previously, Flowers had designed and supervised the installation of a created wetland system at the Riveredge Environmental Center.

THE WETLAND SYSTEM

Flower's plan called for three large septic tanks totaling 18,000 gallons that were installed in sequence. The effluent was then piped 1000 feet to a location for the wetlands on top of a small hill.

Two wetland cells, each measuring 50 by 60 feet were excavated to a 2-foot depth, were located next to each other. These were designed for a 4200 gallon daily output from the school. One of the cells was to be designated as aerobic (with air injection) and the other was anaerobic (airless) for comparison by students and other study purposes.

Both cells were lined with a fabric to prevent damage from below, then lined with a rubber based water-tight liner and filled 2 feet with pea sized gravel. (Pea gravel is essential as there are millions of microorganisms that live on the plant roots within the pea gravel). Effluent distribution pipes were installed at the entrance end of each of the cells and an air line was included in the Aerobic cell. An automatic diverter controls the equal flow to each of the cells.

The tops of the pea gravel beds were covered with a porous membrane and the entire cells are then filled with 6 inches of sterile soil to hopefully eliminate weeds and undesirable plants. (They later found they had purple loosestrife, reed canary grass and other wild plants growing that had to be removed.)

The students had a field day planting 5,000 desired plants in July of 2001: Wild Iris, Sedges, Prairie Cord Grass, and other mesic prairie plants. A third smaller and narrow unlined cell was put in place to disperse any outflow that might occur from the main cells. No outflow has ever gone to the third cell and today it remains entirely dry.

photo: Ralph Valatka

Tom Mellon Takes a Question

THE KMLS MEAN GREEN MACHINE

This is the name given to the mechanical operational functions for the *aerobic* cell. An air source was needed to supply the ventilation for that cell which has air supplied under low pressure to the contained air lines. Using no electricity, a small windmill with a bellows gives ample air flow into the test aerobic cell where fine bubble air lines provide oxygen to the bacteria.

A solar powered battery setup runs the submerged electric pump that returns any effluent from the discharge end of the cells to the starting inlet. It has been known that injecting air into these wetlands speeds up the process and makes them more effective at removing nutrients. The students did much of the work of installing these "green machine" mechanicals and learned much about maintenance and electricity.

THE RESULTS

The enhanced performance of the aerobic cell was obvious by the results of long-range testing by the students. The anaerobic cell performance was not as good, but was still far better any other wastewater treatment system in use.

Bear in mind that the mechanical needs of the aerobic cell are not a part of the anaerobic (airless) portion of the system bringing the cost and maintenance down considerably for the airless cell.

The ammonia levels are high from the school even with less use of harsh cleaning compounds and dissolved oxygen levels are low slowing the process of breaking down the ammonia and changing the nitrites to nitrates which are useable. The added air (oxygen) benefits will show in the professional test results. [see table below.]

Even the anaerobic results show a remarkable decrease in amounts of Ammonia, NH-N and total nitrogen in the test results from samples taken in the system cells. Nitrogen testing is not required presently in Wisconsin.

The use of Created Wetland Systems is legal in Wisconsin for residential locations. Cost for anaerobic is estimated at 20% above a conventional in ground wastewater system.

The entire presentation is available on disc for use free from DCEC. Our thanks to Laddie Chapman for filming and making the video possible.

Part of this program is also available at http://mptv.org/outdoor_wisconsin/archives.php — enter program # 2039 and click "submit."

Sample Chemical	Experimental Aerobic	Control Anaerobic
NH-N	24.0 mg/l	68 mg/l
Ammonia	17.5 mg/l	121 mg/l
Total N	29.9 mg/l	124 mg/l

• doing your part • making a difference • doing your part • making a difference • doing your part •

What You Can Do for Our Earth

A few weeks ago, I took an early morning walk on "garbage day" in my neighborhood and was surprised at how many good or useful items were being thrown out instead of being donated to local groups like *Clothe My People* or *The Sunshine House*.

Passing Forward Usable Items Means Less in Landfills

All those items were headed to a landfill rather than to someone who could use them—and in these hard times it could be someone who really **needs** them—if only the owner had taken the time to drop them off at a donation site.

I found this list of sample times for biodegradability for items in a landfill from the U.K. Department of the Environment:

Banana Peel	2 to 10 days
Orange Peel	6 months
Cotton Rags	1 to 5 months
Paper	2 to 5 months
Wool Socks	1 to 5 years
Cigarette Filter	3 to 12 years
Plastic Bags	10 to 20 years
Leather Shoes	25 to 40 years
Nylon Fabric	30 to 40 year
Styrofoam Cups	100 years
Plastic 6-pack Holder Rings	450 years

Imagine the time it would take to biodegrade the perfectly good garden hoe, winter coat or the Playskool baby toys that I saw that morning. We should all try and avoid buying things that take so long to decay.

You can make a difference by recycling your clothes and household items at your local charity or resale shop or, if you prefer, here's a list of online sites:

Freecycle.com	4,000 cities worldwide
Neighborrow.com:	trade, borrow or gift for "neighborhood bucks"
Craigslist.org:	"Free Section"
ReCellular.com:	donate old cell phones
MyBoneYard.com or GreenPhone.com:	electronics for cash or reward points
MakingMemories.org:	wedding and bridesmaids' dresses to benefit breast cancer research
Glassslipperprojest.org:	formals and prom dresses for low-income high school students

Eileen Andera DCEC President

• doing your part • making a difference • doing your part • making a difference • doing your part •

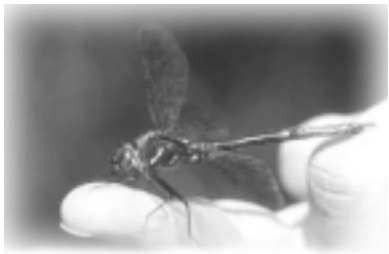
Hines Dragonfly Habitat Update

On-going litigation to force complete critical habitat designation for the endangered Hines Emerald Dragonfly continues. To bring you up to date: the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service had removed large areas of the Hiawatha National Forest in Upper Michigan, a known Hines Emerald habitat area from their proposed critical habitat designation.

This resulted in legal action by the Center For Biological Diversity and the Natural Resources Defense Council, along with regional organizations including DCEC, to ensure that these forest lands continue to be included in the designation.

Reacting to this suit, the US Fish & Wildlife has proposed a settlement wherein they would reopen the original proposed designations for comment in fall of 2009 and issue a new designation by April 2010. They would keep the current designation in place until the new one is issued in April of 2010. They would also be willing to keep the excluded Hiawatha Forest areas as critical habitat in place until the new designation is issued. We are unsure how such an agreement would be recorded or made enforceable, if at all.

The government's lawyer also threatened the possibility that if we were not inclined to settle, they might go ahead and remand/reopen the critical habitat designation on their own, thus effectively ending our case.



The potential downside for us is that Fish & Wildlife might not keep the current designations in place during this process and we would have to petition the court to force them to do so. There is no guarantee that a new designation would not again exclude the National Forest land, though if excluded they would have to provide additional rationales.

After conferring with all of the parties bringing this litigation during a conference call in mid-June, the consensus of the group was that we should proceed with the litigation. We remain steadfast that the Hiawatha Forest lands in upper Michigan must be included in the final habitat designation, however long it takes. Members of DCEC own and visit lands in the Hiawatha National Forest. They are directly involved and supportive of this critical designation for the Hines Emerald, as are also landowners here in Door County with Hines Emerald habitat. ~JMV

DCEC Leads Fight for Cleaner DC Waters

After the Log Den Restaurant's drinking water problems became evident, everyone now seems concerned with the inspection process addressing the failed homeowner wastewater systems throughout the county. After conferring with the County Sanitarian John Teichtler, DCEC organized two brainstorming sessions with all of the sanitary service providers invited.

One was held in southern Door in Maplewood, and the second at the Liberty Grove Town Hall in northern Door County. Both of these mid-June sessions were well attended by an interested representative cross-section of installers, service people and regulatory staff members.

One of the major concerns from official personnel voiced during the sessions was that the County Planning Department needs to be more critical of, and better enforce, permit applications that specify the number of bedrooms in a dwelling. These determine the size of a given building's wastewater system.

The service and installation people indicated that the forecast water usage is often considerably lower than actual use because of new trends such as hot tubs and generally higher gallon use than is anticipated, resulting in overloaded wastewater systems.

For these reasons, along with common sense, water conservation should be a countywide priority for our limited groundwater resource

Funding assistance for low-income homeowners, in addition to the Wisconsin Fund which helps with grants for those financially stressed, was suggested as an incentive to get people to act on their own.

Both brainstorming groups were receptive to exploring other financial sources that could underwrite loans or grants to assist homeowners. The feeling was that many homeowners are aware that their system is failed, that they are waiting for inspections and replacement orders, not willing to proceed on their own.

For homeowners to proceed on their own would allow them to plan at their leisure rather than panic in a situation of last-minute legal orders. It was felt that funding assistance with an expiration deadline for availability might help expedite these voluntary conversions prior to replacement orders.

At the Liberty Grove session, Bud Kalms, town administrator, reported the documented number of failed systems in a research area of their town had reached 70 %.

Liberty Grove's research was expedited by the town as a study for possible expansion of the Sister Bay wastewater system and/or establishing a town-wide sanitary district. It's fair to conclude that the percentage of failed systems in Liberty Grove is representative of most of Door County, as reported in earlier issues of this newsletter.

The consensus from the Sanitarian's office, and most of the participants present, was that locally owned individual *properly operating* wastewater systems do a more acceptable job of processing waste than does a municipal system operating under current State regulations. Municipal wastewater treatment facilities in Wisconsin are allowed limited discharge, up to 2mcg/l Phosphorous, which would not occur at all in a *properly operating* homeowner system.

In addition most of pathogens or pharmaceuticals are removed or trapped in a *properly functioning* homeowner wastewater system, that are currently not destroyed in a municipal system even with disinfectants.

Also brought out at the sessions was the official prediction that it will take at least 10 years to complete. Continuing at the current rate is unacceptable and something needs to be done.

Yet, the consensus at both meetings was that to expedite inspections with more staff would cause local installers to not be able to address the additional work. The result would be an influx of transient installers, who sometimes have quality and workmanship problems.

Some voiced the concern that once the systems are all updated; the workload would diminish sufficiently to cause some problems. An update of State Comm 83 would make the water use and control of waste more realistic in today's water use determination.

These two sessions were very helpful in gaining extra input from the people doing the work out in the field and to bring together all of the stakeholders in this long process.

After summarizing all of the comments and ideas that emerged from these two sessions, the DCEC Water Resources Committee is engaged in creating a list of workable recommendations. These will be made available to county Health and Sanitation officials, to the public in our next DCEC newsletter and website, and to the news media.

A sincere thank you to this dedicated committee for taking on this awesome for our future generations who deserve a viable groundwater supply far into the future. ~JMV

JUNGLE—from page two

the downfall of that civilization began. When the life there failed, natural vegetation again returned slowly to reclaim the land and return it to jungle that we see there today.

Urban sprawl without any consideration of the ultimate consequences brought about destruction of this ancient civilization

One can only imagine the problems that were unknown and not understood by these people, of limited intelligence, regarding future planning, with unfamiliar disease and pestilence ultimately taking control. Sewage disposal and lack of useable drinking water along with other unknown problems?

Does any of this sound familiar?

We can learn some essential lessons from the past if we take the time and effort needed to ensure that our communities are truly sustainable.

It is a mandate right now that we plan for continued natural and responsible growth and adopt new thinking and updated planning, along with responsible groundwater management with proper localized wastewater recycling technology at each location.

This is a basic requirement for our small communities to prosper and be viable places in which to live unto the next generations.

Jerry Viste

SUSTAIN—from page two

changed our entire agricultural future.

Other groups soon picked up on the sustainable thinking with the Chamber of Commerce adopting a "sustainable tourism" promotion with the thoughts of keeping the image of a quaint, picturesque location as a prime destination for visitors.

The local development faction cheerfully locked onto the catchy phrase and the concept also with "sustainable development" as a way to create a more acceptable image and to lessen the public reaction to proposed projects. More recently, a new movement has been present in this country and in our county to incorporate concepts of sustainable communities.

The mind-set of citizens has been changing through the years and this concept from other countries is being accepted. This is through the efforts of dedicated people working to make responsible and sustainable communities part of our heritage in this great part of Wisconsin.

DCEC is proud to be a supporter of these efforts that will soon bring about some needed changes in the drive to keep our communities vibrant and desirable unto the next generations. Long past due!

Become involved in changing the way your own community plans to enable it to prosper and grow responsibly and be truly sustainable. Jerry Viste

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:_____ Please email me DCEC alerts: ☐

Summer mailing address, if different:

Address:_____

City:_____State:_____Zip:_____

Phone:_____

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

Annual Memberships Due Soon

REMINDER: Your membership in DCEC runs with the calendar year with renewals happening every January. *New members* joining at or after our Annual Summer Program in August get their following calendar year's dues included with their membership.

DCEC'S Leadership

PRESIDENT
Eileen Andera, Sturgeon Bay
1st VICE-PRESIDENT
Jon (Fritz) Renner, Gibraltar
2nd VICE-PRESIDENT
Phyllis Ingwersen, Sister Bay
TREASURER
Bernice Shumway, Sister Bay
SECRETARIES:
Carol Farwell, Ephraim
Carol Sills, Liberty Grove
DIRECTORS
David Boyd, Fish Creek. Steve Eatough, Sister Bay. Robert Merline, Fish Creek. Sarah Stuart, Fish Creek. John Wilson, Baileys Harbor
HONORARY DIRECTORS
Margaret Cowles, Tony Haswell, James Ingwersen, Flora Langlois, John F. Wilson, Karen Wilson, Libby Zimmerman
STAFF
Executive Director
Jerry Viste, Sturgeon Bay
Membership Coordinator
Ray Kostiuk, Fish Creek

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

[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]

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Fish Creek WI 54212
Permit No. 15

Veteran* Newsweek *Reporter
Award Winning Great Lakes Author
at August 20th Annual Summer Program
See Page One

0808

Liberty Grove Discovers Many Failed Septics

It has long been DCEC's policy to support and initiate programs and projects that will maintain and improve the water that flows around and below our unique Peninsula. It has been our mandated priority that we make water quality our number one concern and to bring this sustainability issue to county residents in every way possible.

Recently, DCEC sponsored two brainstorming sessions with sanitation service people: one in southern Door and one in Liberty Grove town. [See story page six]. These meetings were intended to find acceptable solutions to problems facing the updating and inspection of failed systems in all of Door County.

Some common agreements came out of both of these meetings. One mutual consensus voiced was that correctly operating and maintained private wastewater systems are a much more acceptable method of serving wastewater needs than municipal systems that are allowed a permitted nutrient standard discharge under Wisconsin statutes. This was reinforced by comments from the county Sanitarian.

It was brought out at the Liberty Grove meeting that that town recently had documented a 70 % legally failed private system ratio in a selected port ion of the town.

(Bear in mind that a legally failed system may not be presently contaminating, but the chances of that occurring in the future are high.)

A local town board reaction, or possibly the motivation for the homeowner system exam, was the formation of a sanitary district encompassing the entire town of Liberty Grove.

photo: Jerry Viste

DCEC Liberty Grove Meeting

While this may be a viable tool in expanding the Sister Bay municipal system, there are those who fear that it will also give the impetus to formation of a municipal system in the small hamlet of Ellison Bay.

As with all of the other small communities in the county (you can name them) each time a wastewater system is expanded or put in place out of a "seemed" necessity, commercial development of un-anticipated proportions takes place and the character of that village is lost and changed forever.

The people of Liberty Grove town will need to watch carefully the development that is planned or anticipated under the new sanitary district determination, especially with the town board members serving as its sanitary commissioners.

It's your township, take care of it.

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