Crossroads Accepts Hamerstrom Portrait

Frances (Fron) Hamerstrom, widely-known as the "Bird Lady" gave two public presentations in the county in 1994 under the sponsorship of D.C.E.C.

Dr. Hamerstrom had dedicated her entire life to protection of prairie hawks and other raptors in central Wisconsin. As a student of Aldo Leopold, she had given up her family status to devote her career to the study and research of these birds, living in the wilderness to accomplish this goal.

Following her appearances here, James Ingwersen, noted portrait artist and D.C.E.C. Board member completed this beautiful portrait of Fron, and D.C.E.C. recently presented the portrait to Crossroads on behalf of Jim and Phyllis Ingwersen as a gift.

France Defeats Monsanto

France has held firm in its opposition to Monsanto’s genetically modified MON 810 maize - and the agri-chemical multinational has admitted defeat. Monsanto had been putting legal pressure on the French government to lift its 2008 cultivation ban on MON 810, firstly with a successful appeal to the European Court of Justice, then with a follow-up case heard in France’s own highest court, the Council of State.

Despite both these institutions ruling that the ban was “insufficiently justified in law”, the French Government, backed by President Sarkozy, has insisted that it will still not allow cultivation of the biotech maize. Now Monsanto has announced that it would not be selling seeds for MON810 in France this year. Five other EU countries - Germany, Greece, Austria, Luxembourg and Hungary - have current bans on MON810 cultivation in place. Although this is a single episode in what is a constant battle, credit must be given to the process and the decision makers.

Washington: Bring similar common sense back to U.S.
D.C.E.C. Voluntary Home Well Testing Program

Last year, 2011, Liberty Grove Town was the first in the County to utilize the DCEC cooperative private water testing program conducted by University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point. The results came back with no big surprises, which put many homeowners at ease, knowing that their well water was safe and wholesome for their family consumption.

The testing program conducted by the University during the summer months is able to accept one new township for testing each year, so advance planning and information is necessary before the testing program is implemented in a town. Educational presentations are scheduled to ensure that homeowners have the facts and understand the range of this valuable program. Often there are misconceptions about the results of the tests being made available to others than the well owners, and to satisfy that concern the well owners and locations are not identified on the final map. The follow-up map is intended to indicate where areas of concern might be and prove valuable to resolve area water problems, with individual locations not identified.

This as an educational opportunity to help people understand the groundwater quality in the area and learn about short and long-term solutions to any water quality problems. Without these programs many homeowners would be unaware of water quality issues with their own well.

Here are some key points about this program:

- The goal of the program is to provide a convenient opportunity for homeowners to determine if their water is safe for drinking.

- The testing is first and foremost an educational program that allows well users to have their water tested at a state-certified lab for common water quality concerns and learn how to interpret those results.

- Participation in the testing is strictly voluntary, meaning that those with reservations are not required to participate.

- The educational event is open to anyone, so those that may have reservations about testing would still have the opportunity to attend and benefit from the information.

- If problems are identified through testing, any decision to follow up with corrective action is solely the responsibility of the homeowner. We are simply here as an independent source of information to provide homeowners with options.

The well code is based on the premise that a properly constructed well should be able to provide bacteriologically free water continuously without the need for treatment. When a homeowner detects a problem with their well it may be due to non-complying features in the system that should be fixed. While homeowners are allowed to perform work on their own well, it is in a homeowner’s best interest to have the well checked and worked on by a certified well driller or pump installer.

To head off any misunderstanding, participating in the water testing program would not require a homeowner to contact a well driller or pump installer. While they may be motivated to contact a professional after receiving information from the test results, a homeowner may contact a professional on their own accord. Results from testing are never shared for purposes of identifying a non-complying well and no one will follow up with them regarding their results.

The testing program that is proposed is an opportunity for homeowners to learn about the safety and quality of their water supply. It leads to greater understanding of well owner responsibilities and groundwater concerns of a particular region. We would encourage you to talk with representatives from the Town of Liberty Grove regarding their experience with the water-testing program this past year and the benefits they received from the information.

The cost for testing remains at $109 for the series when an individual town is participating. This cost is considerably less than would be possible under private well testing programs available. It’s a good deal.
Cruise Ship Operators and Liquid Manure Haulers Share Commonality

With the advent of another cruise ship mishap, this time in Italy, and two recent animal waste hauling mishaps in one day here in southern Door County, a common thread becomes clear to even the most casual observer. These are two industries that need to be more closely supervised by a governing entity to ensure safe operation while operating in the public domain, on the ocean or on public roadways.

The same situation applies to animal waste haulers, both commercial and private individuals operating in Wisconsin. Last month there were two mishaps involving animal waste hauler spills on public roads in the County. While it is claimed that the truck trailers were secure, the resulting spills indicate that the “load” was not contained as it should have been. The Wisconsin Department of Commerce indicates that responsibility for regulating these operators falls with the Department of Transportation. The Department of Transportation officials say that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources should be notified of any spills that occur, after the fact. With no surprise, the Department of Natural Resources officials say these haulers are under the jurisdiction of local government: county and/or town. This means that by default, the county and/or town is responsible for ensuring that animal waste haulers are operating with proper equipment and in a safe manner.

In view of the number of animal waste trucks and tractor-towed “vehicles” that travel the back roads of the County to deliver their cargo to selected destinations on farmland, citizens are becoming aware of the problems this new industry brings. While much of the liquid animal waste is generated locally, a major portion in southern Door County is coming from Kewaunee County operations.

As you might expect, community residents in Kewaunee County are now becoming aware of the problems these large animal-farm operations have with proper and safe animal waste disposal. They are attempting to begin local town and county control over the manner in which these haulers operate. Just using the back roads out of the public scrutiny does not make the problem go away. The towns affected are starting to do some serious thinking about road use and repair and damage control for the next spill that will occur. As the problem grows, Kewaunee towns are beginning to react to public pressure to maintain the damaged local roads and to hold non-local commercial users responsible for the extra maintenance costs.

As a tourist destination, those agencies involved in promotion in Door County might have more than a casual interest in keeping the rural scenic roadways safe and free from the waste nuisance often left behind. For public safety concerns and road maintenance issues, local municipalities need to follow the Kewaunee County towns lead and gain some control over extra heavy loads on their local rural roads.

(JMV)
There is battle raging across the world over who can better feed its people: small-scale farmers practicing sustainable agriculture, or giant agribusinesses using chemical fertilizers and pesticides. It was small-scale organic farmers growing rice for themselves and local markets in the Philippines who first convinced others that they could feed both their communities and their country. Part of what convinced them was simple economics: These farmers demonstrated substantial immediate savings from eliminating chemical inputs while, within a few harvests—if not immediately—their yields were close to or above their previous harvests. From these farmers, it was also learned of the health and environmental benefits from this shift.

Moving up from what was learned in the Philippines to examine other countries, it was concluded that small-scale farmers practicing different kinds of what is now called agroecology could feed the world. Agroecology extends the organic label to a broader category of ecosystem-friendly, locally adapted agricultural systems, including agro-forestry and techniques like crop rotation, topsoil management, and watershed restoration. At a global conference in the Netherlands on alternative approaches to food and hunger, attendees came away even more convinced that small-scale farmers are our only hope.

A bold champion for small-scale farmers; United Nations “Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food” Olivier de Schutter reported “Recent agroecology projects conducted in 20 African countries demonstrated a doubling of crop yields over a period of 3-10 years.” Indeed, de Schutter’s December 2010 report pulls together studies from all over the world that analyze small-scale farmers practicing agroecology.

The result is powerful stuff. As de Schutter concludes, “We won’t solve hunger and stop climate change with industrial farming on large plantations. The solution lies in supporting small-scale farmers’ knowledge and experimentation, and in raising incomes of smallholders so as to contribute to rural development.”

So, what is the take-away from all this? Well, as individuals and communities, we have a lot to do with influencing the future of farming. At a minimum, we need to “vote with our forks,” to use the phrase of the “slow food” movement. This means buying local, organic, and whole-grain products and limiting our consumption of meat. But beyond that, we need to raise our voices and collective power to convince governments, international organizations, and philanthropists such as the Gates Foundation to stop supporting and subsidizing chemical agribusiness and global trade, and instead shift incentives to local farmers and domestic production. The fight against giant agribusiness and chemical firms is a major one. Indeed, a key immediate battle where we need to raise our collective voices, outrage, and action over Monsanto’s incursion into Nepal. Even as you read this, the U.S. government is working with Monsanto to push farmers there to adopt chemical agriculture using imported Monsanto seeds. seeds which cannot be saved and replanted under strict penalty.

Whether one is worried about hunger and global social crises, or climate change and other ecological crises, the answer is the same: small-scale organic farmers. Their future is central to whether the battle to end hunger can be won.

John Cavanagh and Robin Broad who wrote this article for YES! Magazine, have been traveling the country and the world for their project Local Dreams: Finding Rootedness in the Age of Vulnerability.

(Condensed from YES! Magazine)
Your Equipment and "Watts" It's Using

My friend and D.C.E.C. member Dave Kupsch recently received a small Watt reader from Sturgeon Bay Utilities to measure how much energy each of his electrical items was using. We spent some time at each of our homes comparing different appliances, some old, some new, to figure out our usage and what it was costing us. O.K. Maybe we did get a little competitive, "mine uses less than yours", but it's nice to compete for "less" rather than the usual "more"!

Additionally, I went to the Sturgeon Bay Utilities (SBU) website where you can use the on-line Appliance Calculator to measure standard items like refrigerator and TV and unusual items like medical equipment and swimming pool heaters. As you fill in the blanks with your specific numbers and sizes of items, it calculates and then totals your energy use in dollars.

You can also measure your whole house energy usage by completing the Individual Energy Profile section that you customize by your house size, window type, heating and cooling specifics, etc. It is an easy site that walks you through the process to get a whole house overview. It also gives you low-cost ideas for improvement and estimated cost savings to consider.

The list below is a combination of Dave's and my items which were calculated at the current electrical rate of .1060 per kilowatt hour and some generic items from the SBU website that were calculated at .1050 per kWh.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equipment</th>
<th>Watts</th>
<th>Hours Per Month</th>
<th>Cost Per Month</th>
<th>Cost Per Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sonicare Toothbrush</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>$0.06</td>
<td>$0.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Alarm Clock</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>$0.08</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clock Radio</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>$0.77</td>
<td>$9.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidde C.O. Detector</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>$0.06</td>
<td>$0.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Led Nightlight</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>$0.02</td>
<td>$0.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermatic Plug-In Timer</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>$0.16</td>
<td>$1.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HP Printer, on, but idle</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>$0.12</td>
<td>$1.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Softener</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>$0.30</td>
<td>$3.71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equipment</th>
<th>Hours Per Day</th>
<th>Cost Per Month</th>
<th>Cost Per Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honeywell Sm. Turbo Fan</td>
<td>33.5</td>
<td>$1.10 @ 7 Months</td>
<td>$7.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lasko 20 in. Box Fan</td>
<td>78.7</td>
<td>$2.58 @ 7 Months</td>
<td>$18.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceiling Fan</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>$1.97 @ 8 Months</td>
<td>$15.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 ct. Led Colored Lights</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>$0.06 @ 4 Months</td>
<td>$0.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cellphone Charger</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>$0.04</td>
<td>$0.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sm. Ceramic Foot Heater w/Fan</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>$19.71 @ 4 Months</td>
<td>$78.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delonghi Oil-Filled Heater</td>
<td>1,350</td>
<td>$35.48 @ 4 Months</td>
<td>$141.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dehumidifier</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>$29.57 @ 8 Months</td>
<td>$236.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refrigerator, Pre 1993 19 Cu. Ft.</td>
<td>509</td>
<td>$12.87</td>
<td>$154.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refrigerator, Energy Star 19 Cu. Ft.</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>$8.37</td>
<td>$100.44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equipment</th>
<th>Hours Per Day</th>
<th>Cost Per Month</th>
<th>Cost Per Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>52 Gal. Electric Water Heater</td>
<td>4,500 @ 2.5 Hrs/Day</td>
<td>$36.96</td>
<td>$443.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sump Pump</td>
<td>500 @ .67 Hrs/Day</td>
<td>20.77</td>
<td>$1.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Pump</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>$2.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric Range</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>$7.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanyo Microwave, No Turntable</td>
<td>1,183</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>$0.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanyo Microwave, Led Clock</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>$0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washer</td>
<td>500 @ .5 Hrs/Day</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>$0.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dryer</td>
<td>5,000 @ .5 Hrs/Day</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>$8.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TV: 30 - 36&quot; Tube</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>$2.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TV: 40 - 49&quot; LCD</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>$2.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TV: 40 - 49&quot; Plasma</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>$7.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffee Maker: Krups 10 Cup</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>7.75</td>
<td>$0.61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you get a watt reader for yourself the formula to measure costs is: Wattage x hours per month used divided by 1000 x .1060 = costs per month

Another thing to keep in mind is the tiny Led light that remains "on" even when the item is not turned on. For example the microwave clock, TV, VCR, DVD, computer equipment and coffee maker. This is called the phantom load and though it seems like a small amount of watts, cumulatively it could cost you $ 10.00 to $ 30.00 a year! You could group computer equipment together on a power strip and turn the strip off when you're done, or simply unplug the items used infrequently.

This list gives you a general idea of some items, but I hope you go to the SBU website to take your own specific calculations to see how large your electrical footprint is costing you, and take steps to bring those costs down.

Many thanks to Dave for his time helping to measure many of these items for this column.

Eileen Andera    DCEC President
Honeybee Problem Now At A Critical Point

Anyone who’s been stung by a bee knows they can inflict an outsized pain for such tiny insects. It makes a strange kind of sense, then, that their demise would create an outsized problem for the food system by placing the more than 70 crops they pollinate, from almonds to apples to blueberries, in peril.

Although news about Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) has died down, commercial beekeepers have seen average population losses of about 30 percent each year since 2006.

In addition to continued reports of CCD — a still somewhat mysterious phenomenon in which entire bee colonies literally disappear, alien-abduction style, leaving not even their dead bodies behind, bee populations are suffering poor health in general, and experiencing shorter life spans and diminished vitality. And while parasites, pathogens, and habitat loss can deal blows to bee health, research increasingly points to pesticides as the primary culprit.

Of particular concern is a group of pesticides, chemically similar to nicotine, called neonicotinoids (neonics for short), and one in particular called clothianidin. Instead of being sprayed, neonics are used to treat seeds, so that they’re absorbed by the plant’s vascular system, and then end up attacking the central nervous systems of bees that come to collect pollen. Virtually all of today’s genetically engineered Bt corn is treated with neonics. The chemical industry alleges that bees don’t like to collect corn pollen, but new research shows that not only do bees indeed forage in corn, but they also have multiple other routes of exposure to neonics.

The Purdue University study, published in the journal PLUS ONE, found high levels of clothianidin in planter exhaust spewed during the spring sowing of treated maize seed. It also found neonics in the soil of unplanted fields nearby those planted with Bt corn, on dandelions growing near those fields, in dead bees found near hive entrances, and in pollen stored in the hives.

Evidence already pointed to the presence of neonic-contaminated pollen as a factor in CCD. These new revelations about the pervasiveness of neonics in bees’ habitats only strengthen the case against using the insecticides. The irony, of course, is that farmers use these chemicals to protect their crops from destructive insects, but in so doing, they harm other insects essential to their crops’ production and when crop analysts recommend spraying pesticides on crops to kill an aphid population, most farmers follow the advice of the crop adviser who, these days, is likely to be paid by the chemical industry, rather than by a state university or another independent entity.

Beekeepers have already teamed up with groups representing the almond and blueberry industries, both of which depend on honeybee pollination, to tackle the need for education among farmers. A lot of farm groups are recognizing that we need more resources devoted to pollinator protection, and we need that same level of commitment on a national basis, from our USDA and EPA and the agricultural chemical industry.

Unfortunately, it was the EPA itself that gave the green light to clothianidin and other neonics for commercial use, despite its own scientists’ reports about the chemicals’ effects on bees and other pollinators. That doesn’t look good for the chances of getting neonics off the market now, even in light of the Purdue study’s findings.

Since this is an election year, a time when no one wants to make Big Ag (and its money) mad, beekeepers may have to suffer another season of losses before there’s any hope of action on the EPA’s part. But when one out of every three bites of food on Americans’ plates results directly from honeybee pollination, there’s no question that the fate of these insects will determine our own as eaters.

(Condensed from Grist story by Claire Thompson)
DCEC's Leadership

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Sturgeon Bay

**1st VICE-PRESIDENT**
Steve Eatough  
Sister Bay

**2nd VICE-PRESIDENT**
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DCEC Endowment Fund

The DCEC ENDOWMENT FUND exists so that the future of Door County’s will spaces and family farms can be protected far into the future.

Every year, the fund grows.

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

So, whether you can contribute now or later, please make a point of supporting DCEC ENDOWMENT FUND.

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

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Your Elected Officials

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govgeneral@wisconsin.gov

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**STATE SENATOR**
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New Temperature Map for Gardeners

Global warming is hitting not just home, it is also affecting the time that gardeners plant. The government, illustrating a hotter 21st century, is updating the color-coded map of planting zones often seen on the back of seed packets. It’s the first time since 1990 that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has revised the official guide for the nation’s 80 million gardeners, and much has changed. Nearly entire states, such as Ohio, Nebraska and Texas, are in warmer zones.

The new guide arrives just as many home gardeners are receiving their seed catalogs and dreaming of lush flower beds in the spring. It reflects a new reality: The coldest day of the year isn’t as cold as it used to be, so some plants and trees can now survive farther north. The new guide also uses better weather data and offers more interactive technology. For example, gardeners using the online version can enter their ZIP code and get the exact average coldest temperature. Also, for the first time, calculations include more detailed factors such as prevailing winds, the presence of nearby bodies of water, the slope of the land, and the way cities are hotter than suburbs and rural areas.

The map carves up the U.S. into 26 zones based on five-degree temperature increments. Those differences matter in deciding what to plant. The changes come too late to make this year’s seed packets, but they will be on those for next year’s planting. The 1990 map was based on temperatures from 1974 to 1986, the new map from 1976 to 2005. The nation’s average temperature from 1976 to 2005 was two-thirds of a degree higher than it was during the old time period, according to the National Climatic Data Center.

The revised map gives us a clear picture of the new normal and will be an essential tool for gardeners, farmers and natural resource managers as they begin to cope with rapid climate change. You can access the updated plant hardiness map by using this link which also breaks down into state regions: Plant Map: [http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeg/](http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeg/)

(Condensed from AP Science with permission JMV)

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