

Monroe County Natural Resource and Extension Committee
Regular Monthly Meeting – March 14, 2017
Monroe County Ag Service Center – 820 Industrial Dr., Sparta, WI

Committee Members present: J. Schroeder, D. Pierce, M. Halverson, and D. Hall.

Committee Members absent: N. VanWychen and D. Olson.

Also Present: A. Karrels (Deke Slayton Museum), B. Micheel (LC), C. Ziegler (Forestry), B. Richardson (LC), C. Mulder (LC), J. Roll (Hist), C. Walroth(DNR), E. Eggert (UW-EXT), J. Goede (UW-EXT), B. Halfman (UW-EXT).

The meeting notice was posted in compliance with the open meeting law.

Call to Order: Acting Chairman Pierce called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Public Comment Period: There was no public comment.

Approve Minutes from the February 13th NR & Extension Meeting: The Committee reviewed the minutes. *A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented by M. Halverson, seconded by J. Schroeder. Motion carried, 4-0.*

Deke Slayton/Bike Museum: A. Karrels stated the donated Deke Slayton Stinger Formula 1 Race Plane had arrived from California and is stored temporarily in the aviator's garage and will be installed prior to a Grand Opening this spring. Karrels spoke of the plans for installing an elevator is on hold due to lack of space. Karrels also reported that the Business after 5 is to be held at the Museum this Wednesday.

Local History Room/Wegner Grotto- J. Roll reviewed February expenditures and presented report to the committee (attached).

1. **Discuss/Approve Local History Room Budget Adjustment.** *J. Schroeder made a motion to approve the \$15,000 budget adjustment seconded by M. Halverson. Motion carried 4-0.*

Land Conservation Department:

1. **Review February Expenditures:** B. Micheel reviewed expenditures, report attached.
2. **County Conservasionist Report:** B. Micheel presented the departmental report to the committee discussing P Variance options municipalities will have in 2017 (attached). Discussed the next meeting date for the Agricultural Advisory Team to be held March 30th from 1-3 p.m. C. Holzl gave an update on the Tree Sales.
3. **CWD presentation:** B. Micheel presented slide show along with information regarding the progression of Chronic Wasting Disease in the counties to the south.
4. **Soil & Water Conservasionist Report:** C. Mulder discussed the CREP and Farmland Preservation Program activities this last month and mentioned working on designs and surveys for 2017 Conservation Practices. C. Mulder also gave a report on Sparta High School Career Day, where she presented her career details and shared photo's, stories and actual construction plans recently implemented in soil and water conservation. B. Richardson discussed his activities of ongoing design construction for 2017 along with his site visits and surveys. B. Richardson noted 24 landowner contracts so far in 2017.
5. **2016 Construction Review:** B. Richardson gave a slide presentation with information implementing grassed water ways, grade stabilization structures, manure storage and information on the process of each project.
6. **Summer Camp:** B. Micheel handed out flyers (attached) for the Land + Water Camp for June 19-23, 2017 and the Sand Lake Conservation Camp to be held June 21-23, 2017. C. Mulder reported the Committee paying ½ the cost of 6 Scholarships last year totaling \$300. Discussed regarding placing funds toward scholarships for 2017- to review after application deadline.
7. **Approve Fishing Easement:** *Motion was made by M. Halverson to approve fishing easement for Randy & Rebecca Dreier, seconded by D. Hall. Motion carried 4-0.*

NRCS Report: No Report.

DNR Reports:

1. **Private Lands:** C. Walroth reported the State Nursery running out of trees and the delivery has not been set yet. C. Walroth reported participating in the Sparta High School Career Day. C. Walroth reported receiving a lot of inquiries of the tax law properties regarding the mandatory harvest practices after the letters went out to the landowners. Walroth reported maps being updated managing forestry.
2. **Warden:** Not present.

Forestry & Parks:

1. **Forestry & Park Updates:** C. Ziegler presented his department report (attached).
2. **Approve the Emergency Fire Warden:** *Motion was made by D. Hall to approve Steve Boris for Emergency Fire Warden, seconded by M. Halverson. Motion carried 4-0.*
3. **Timber Sale Extensions – Sale 138,143, &145:** *Motion was made by D. Hall to approve 2 years on all 3 extensions, seconded by J. Schroeder. Motion carried 4-0.*
4. **Review/Approve tree planting bids:** *Motion was made by M. Halverson to approve tree planting bid of \$1890, seconded by D. Hall. Motion carried 4-0.*
5. **Review Forestry & Parks Expenditures** C. Ziegler reviewed the February monthly expenditures.

The FSA representative D. Hall left meeting after his obligation was completed.

County Farm Education Funds – Discussion of potential projects - No discussion

Extension Office Business:

1. **Review of February Expenditures**
2. **4H & Youth Development Report (Goede) – report attached**
3. **Family Living Report (Eggert) –report attached.**
4. **Agriculture Report (Halfman) –report attached.**
5. ***Motion made by M. Halverson to accept Agent reports and review of expenditures, seconded by J. Schroeder. Motion carried 3-0-1.***

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, April 11th at 8:30 a.m. at the Monroe County Ag Services Center in Sparta.

Motion to adjourn: was made at 11:50 a.m. by M. Halverson, second by J. Schroeder. Motion carried, 3-0-1.

Recorder: Connie Holzl



*Bringing history to life
since 1976.*

County Historian's Report, February 2017

Submitted by Jarrod Roll, Director / County Historian

Highlighted Projects and Activities by Team

- Installed the "Sparta in the 1950s – Rasmussen Photography" display
- Created a chart explaining the LHR and Wegner Grotto accounts, how they are funded and how those funds are to be used; presented chart to the Monroe County Finance Committee
- Attended the Wisconsin Federation of Museums meeting in Madison
- Promoted and hosted History-Live presentation (press release, electronic newsletter, Dairy Queen sign, Facebook, create and post flyers, etc.) – record number in attendance!
- Attended the Monroe County Economic Development Conference; represented the Local History Room and assisted with the conference; created and presented interactive game "How well do you know Monroe County?"
- Fabricated and installed new images for the LHR promotional tabletop display board used in booths
- Provided educational programming to 220 students at LHR and in the classroom.
- Processed donations to the 2016 Annual Fund (entered donation amounts, generated receipts for each donor, sent thank you letters)
- Contacted county restaurants to request participation with using LHR promotional placemats; delivered to participating restaurants
- Created four pages of content for the MCHS newsletter
- Trained new LHR volunteer on looking up newspaper articles and assisting researchers with Ancestry.com
- Regular tasks: provided research assistance to the public (via email, telephone, mail, and in person patrons); provided customer service to museum visitors; assigned storage locations, cataloged, and photographed artifacts removed from displays and those recently donated; balanced LHR financial books and draft monthly report; checked fire extinguishers; processed new donation offerings; conferred with Alli Karrells about museum issues and activities; attend Ag/Extension meeting

In addition to the projects listed above, I supervise the following volunteer and support staff:

- Agnes Jenkins: indexing newspapers
- Dennis Burek: photo scanning projects; artifact cataloging; assist with clerical duties
- Barb Reedich: researching Monroe County in WWI; answer research requests; assist with exhibits
- Hannah Scholze (Museum Services Associate): Facebook, teach students, presented program to Cashton Library; assist with research, exhibits, marketing, etc.
- John Lasko: represents and promotes LHR at public events and in the region
- Jane Schmidt: indexing newspapers
- Jim Ebert: indexing newspapers
- Sandy Waltermann: creating a master index of Monroe County graduates
- Barb McGreevy: Monroe County passport indexing project
- Adam Balz: indexing and transcribing Tomah G.A.R. book
- Marilyn Beall: various archiving and collections projects
- Barb Reisinger: indexing St. Paul's Tomah Church records
- Sara Oostick: catalog and research archaeological specimens from Tarr Valley
- Sammi Meyer: fulfill research requests; other various duties

200 West Main Street Sparta, Wisconsin 54656-2141
608-269-8680 • Fax: 608-269-8921

Email: MCLHR@centurytel.net • www.MonroeCountyHistory.org • www.Facebook.com/mclhr

MONROE COUNTY

Notice of Budgetary Adjustment

Unanticipated Revenue or Expense Increase or Decrease Not Budgeted

Date: March 7, 2017
 Department: Local History Room
 Amount: \$15,000.00
 Budget Year Amended: 2017

Source of Increase / Decrease and affect on Program:
 (If needed attached separate brief explanation.)

To cover the cost of new research library equipment and furniture totalling \$15,000.
 \$15,000 in donations and a grant have been received.

Revenue Budget Lines Amended:

| Account # | Account Name | Current Budget | Budget Adjustment | Final Budget |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 85120000 485000 LHR10 | LOCAL HISTORY ROOM TRUST | \$ 15,000.00 | \$15,000.00 | \$ 30,000.00 |
| 15120000 492800 | TRANSFER IN LOCAL HISTORY ROC | \$ 15,000.00 | \$15,000.00 | \$ 30,000.00 |
| | | | | \$ - |
| | | | | \$ - |
| Total Adjustment | | | \$ 30,000.00 | |

Expenditure Budget Lines Amended:

| Account # | Account Name | Current Budget | Budget Adjustment | Final Budget |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 85120000 599999 | TRANSFER OUT | \$ 15,000.00 | \$15,000.00 | \$ 30,000.00 |
| 15120000 534005 | LHR OPERATING EXPENSE | \$ 15,000.00 | \$15,000.00 | \$ 30,000.00 |
| | | | | \$ - |
| | | | | \$ - |
| | | | | \$ - |
| | | | | \$ - |
| Total Adjustment | | | \$ 30,000.00 | |

Department Head Approval: SR

Date Approved by Committee of Jurisdiction: _____

Following this approval please forward to the County Clerk's Office.

Date Approved by Finance Committee: _____

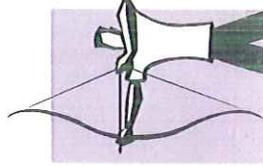
Date Approved by County Board: _____

Per WI Stats 65.90(5)(a) must be authorized by a vote of two-thirds of the entire membership of the governing body.

Date of publication of Class 1 notice of budget amendment: _____

Here's some of the cool stuff you can do ...

- Find out what it takes to be a DNR Conservation Warden
- Get an up-close look at amphibians & reptiles in the nature center
- Catch & identify aquatic critters and learn how water quality affects them
- Meet live animals from the *Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary* of Green Bay and the *Raptor Education Group* of Antigo
- Learn about Wisconsin's native fish and how DNR Fisheries Biologists study them
- Hone your teambuilding and problem-solving skills on the challenge course
- Learn about water pollution and use a cool giant water runoff model
- Compete with other campers in a campfire-building contest
- Play, fish, swim, hike, canoe, shoot a bow, build a birdhouse, and more
- Make new friends at the campfire and feast on s'mores & pudgy pies
- Show off your knowledge during "Conservation Camp Jeopardy"



To Request Registration Materials & Information

Please contact:

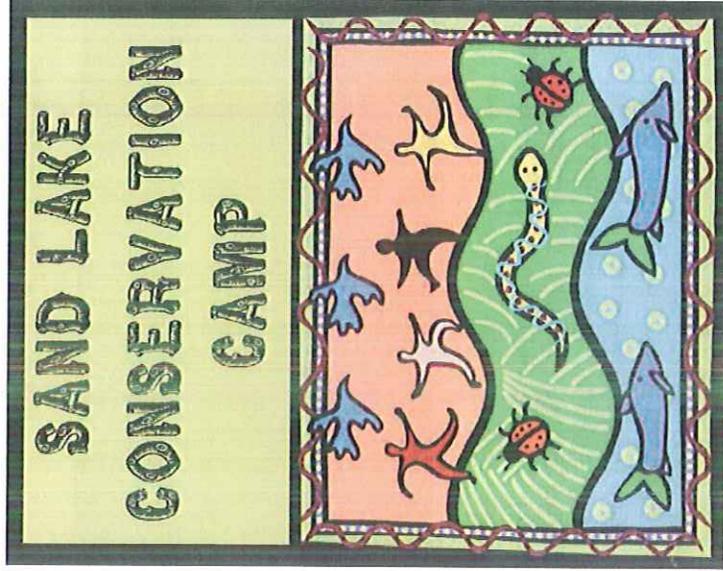
Anne Bartels
 Information & Education Specialist
 Marinette County LWCD
 1926 Hall Ave.
 Marinette, WI 54143
 715-732-7784
abartels@marinettecounty.com

Or

To download camp information and registration forms go to www.marinettecounty.com and click "Departments" in the menu at left.

Go to "Land Information" and select "Environmental Education" from the left menu or the tab at bottom.

Finally, click "Sand Lake Conservation Camp" in the menu at left.



June 21-23, 2017
 Camp Bird Youth Camp
 N8395 Caldron Falls Road
 Crivitz, WI 54114

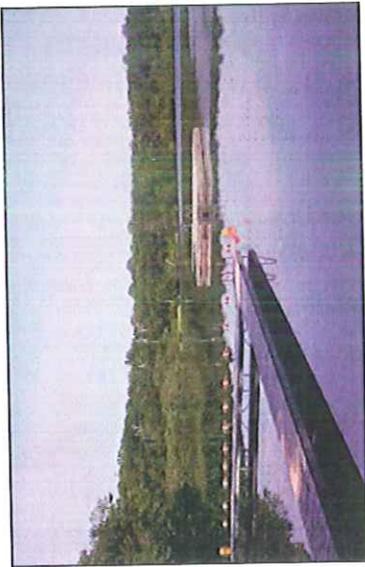


Sponsored by:

Marinette County Land & Water
 Conservation Division

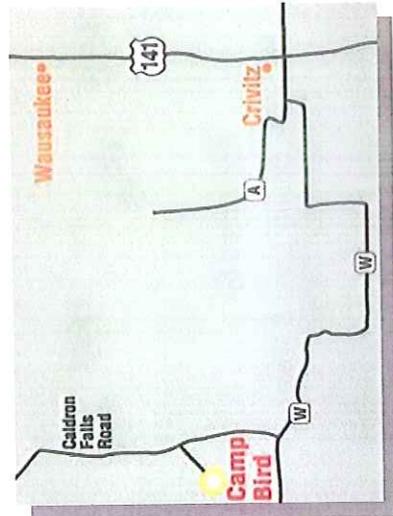
Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation
 Association

Where is it?



Sand Lake Conservation Camp takes place at Camp Bird in Marinette County, WI. This camp is situated on scenic 20-acre Sand Lake. A sandy swimming beach, dock, canoes, stream and lake access, hiking trails, nature center, and log cabins are essential to the outdoor experience. For convenience, the camp has full kitchen facilities, showers, flush toilets, and electricity.

- 14.5 miles west of Crivitz
- 50 miles east of Antigo
- 62 miles south of Iron Mountain, MI
- 66 miles north of Green Bay



Who can attend?

Students entering grades 6-8 in the fall and have an interest in the outdoors are encouraged to attend. Both Wisconsin and Upper Peninsula Michigan residents are welcome.

How much is it?

The fee for camp is \$100 per student*. It covers food, lodging, instruction, tee-shirt, and educational materials (please make checks out to "LWCD - Conservation Camp"). Once we receive registration & payment, campers receive an immediate confirmation letter, followed by more information in late May/early June. *\$100 if postmarked on or before May 19th and \$150 if postmarked after May 19th. Registrations not accepted after June 1st and space is limited.

Scholarships

Our department offers several scholarships for Marinette County residents. If interested, write a 200-300 word essay titled "Why I Want to Participate in Conservation Camp." Winners will be chosen based on the content of their essay. Application is required – see below!

Please send essays, along with all signed registration materials, by April 21, 2017 to Anne Bartels (see back of brochure for address). Please include your name, address, & telephone number. Winners will be notified by May 6th. If you live outside of Marinette County, check with your local county land conservation office, 4H, local sportsmen's clubs, and veterans groups. They may also offer scholarships.

Why Conservation Camp?

This camp provides positive educational outdoor experiences, fosters an appreciation for nature, and introduces a variety of careers in natural resources and conservation. Professionals & volunteers from various agencies present programs on topics like wildlife, habitat, water quality, fisheries, orienteering, trapping, outdoor recreation safety, camping skills, and canoeing. They also serve as overnight staff and cabin leaders.

Campers make new friends, participate in hands-on activities, practice social & leadership skills, enjoy the outdoors, and just have fun! Here are some comments from previous participants:

- "Very fun, you can count on me being there next year!"
- "I think this is the best camp I went to."
- "This was my first time coming here and it was a blast!"
- "I had lots of fun and made friends."
- "The cook's food was awesome."



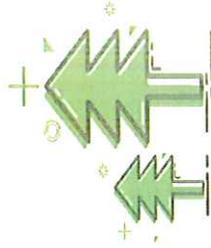
Join us in 2017 at Sand Lake Conservation Camp!

WHO CAN ATTEND?

- Students entering grades 9, 10, 11 or 12 in the 2017/2018 school year (must be 17 or under)
- Students interested in natural resources
- Students who just like being outdoors!

HIGHLIGHTS

- Lake Research
- Forest/wildlife biology
- Nature hikes & canoeing
- Teambuilding exercises
- Exposure to careers in the natural resource field



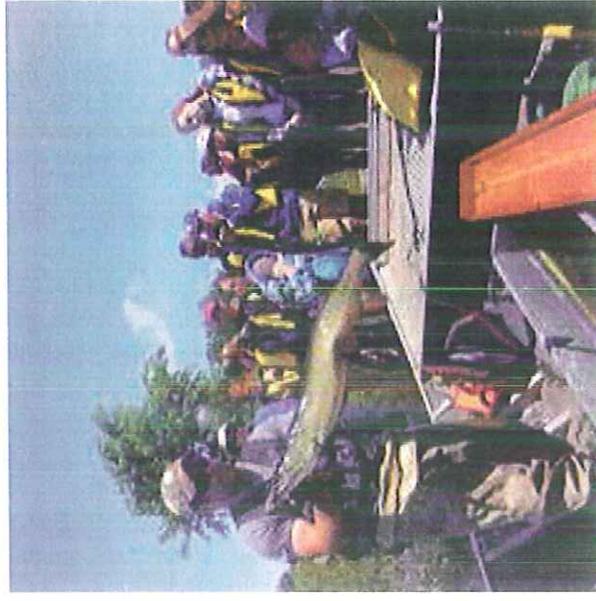
Make new friends! Camp gives you the chance to meet new people. Meet counselors who work in conservation and meet other campers from around the state.

Camp will challenge you - conservation problem-solving, a wilderness canoe trip, wildlife ecology & more!



WI LAND + WATER CAMP

June 19-23, 2017



For more information, contact:

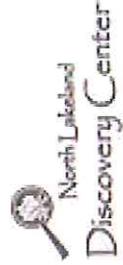
Kim Warkentin
WI Land + Water
131 W Wilson St, #601
Madison, WI 53703
kim@wisconsinlandwater.org
608-441-2677

REGISTER ONLINE:

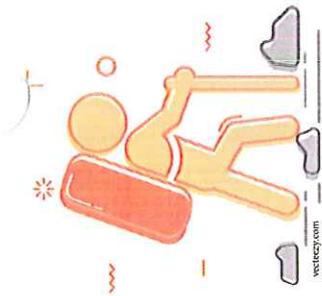
goo.gl/ccIDEu

Sponsored by:

WI Land + Water
Iron, Shawano, Eau Claire & Wood
County Land Conservation
North Lakeland Discovery Center



North Lakeland Discovery Center
215 County Hwy W
Manitowish Waters, WI

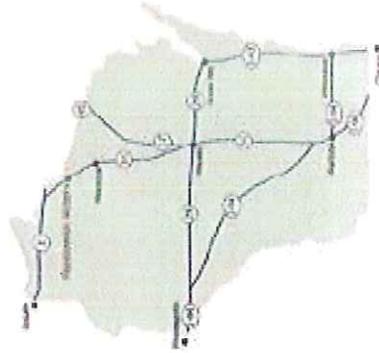


WHERE'S CAMP?

NORTH LAKELAND DISCOVERY CENTER

The North Lakeland Discovery Center is a place where people can come to connect to the natural world. Their location in the Northwoods of Wisconsin is beautifully remote, surrounded by water and forests, and yet accessible to visitors. Whether you have vast experience in the outdoors or are new to exploring, they have a program for your interests and skill levels.

For more information, visit www.discoverycenter.net



92 miles north of Wausau
160 miles northeast of Eau Claire
95 miles west of Florence

CAMP SCHEDULE

MONDAY, JUNE 19

- 11:00 - Camper Registration
- 11:30 - Introduction/ice breakers
- 12:00 - Lunch
- 1:00 - Team building
- 3:00 - Canoe lesson
- 5:30 - Dinner
- 6:30 - Evening hike
- 7:30 - Aldo Leopold Conservation/phenology
- 10:30 - Lights out

TUESDAY, JUNE 20

- 7:00 - Breakfast
- 8:00 - Loon ecology
- 9:00 - Loon study
- 12:00 - Lunch at park
- 1:30 - Loon study
- 6:00 - Dinner
- 7:00 - Tree ID
- 8:00 - Map & compass/forester's challenge
- 9:00 - Campfire & snack
- 10:30 - Lights out

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21

- 7:00 - Breakfast
- 9:00 - Forestry lesson
- 12:00 - Lunch on Lake Superior
- 1:00 - Exploring Lake Superior & view flood damage
- 5:30 - Dinner
- 6:30 - Jewelry making OR fly tying
- 9:00 - Popcorn/movie night
- 10:30 - Lights out

THURSDAY, JUNE 22

- 7:00 - Breakfast
- 8:00 - Conservation round robin
- 12:00 - Lunch
- 1:30 - Canoe trip
- 5:30 - Dinner
- 6:30 - Tye dye t-shirts
- 8:00 - Campfire
- 10:30 - Lights out

FRIDAY, JUNE 23

- 7:30 - Breakfast
- 11:00 - Camper pickup/homeward bound

COST

Cost: \$250 (this includes meals, snacks, lodging and a t-shirt)

SCHOLARSHIPS

Contact your local County Land Conservation Department to see if they offer camp scholarships. You can find your local department here: goo.gl/Wpgzu7

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 2, 2017

Fee increases to \$300 after deadline.

Cancellations after Friday, June 2, will be charged a \$50 cancellation fee. Cancellations after Monday, June 12, will not be refunded.



March 14, 2017 LCD- Staff Reports

Bob Micheel- County Conservationist

LCD Business:

- Bid Solicitation for replacing 2007 F-150
- Agricultural Advisory Team - update
- Conservation & Tree Farm Recognition Awards planned for 2018
- Farmland Preservation Update – AEA & Zoning
- Cover Crop Workshop - Canceled
- March finalize 2016 Reimbursement's (Wildlife Damage, SWRM)
- Beaver Creek Restoration Project headed by USFW.
- P Trading Update: Variance will be available to Point Sources this year, financial implication to LCD. Municipalities planning P- trading.
- NR 151 Violation – Upper Kickapoo
- ATC Discussion
- Tree Sales Update

Meeting Schedule:

- WLWCA Conference – March 15-17th.
- Farmland Preservation Zoning meeting, Wilton – March 21st
- Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group – March 23rd
- CDAC – March 23rd
- State Technical Committee Meeting – March 23rd
- State Wildlife Damage Program – March 23rd
- Agricultural Advisory Team meeting 1-3pm – March 30th
- WLWCA Technical Committee – March 31st
- Natural Resource & Extension Committee Meeting – April 11th

March 14, 2017 -- Soil & Water Conservationist's Report

Christina Mulder

- **Farmland Preservation Program**
 - Gary and Sarah Gronemus in the Portland Township have enrolled 170 acres into FPP.
- **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)**
 - David Linehan has enrolled 65 acres into a Perpetual CREP Easement in the Tomah Township which will buffer the Little Lemonwire. The City of Tomah is also providing incentives as part of their Phosphorous Reduction Movement.
 - Bill Wacker has enrolled 9 acres into a 15-Year CREP Agreement in the Lafayette Township.
- **Designs & Construction for Conservation Practices**
 - Working on designs and surveys for 2017.
- **Sparta High School Career Day**
 - Wednesday, March 1st was career day for all high school students in Sparta (SHS, Sails, High Point). I presented about my career in soil & water conservation by sharing photos, stories, and actual construction plans that have been recently implemented.

Bryce Richardson

- **Design of Conservation Practices**
 - Continue to complete designs for 2017 construction. Site visits and surveys as weather permits. 24 landowner contacts so far in 2017.
- **Nonmetallic Mining**
 - All fees have been collected. Monroe County's share of annual fees is \$17,950.

Forestry & Parks Report (March) – Ziegler

Forestry:

- EOB-Angelo Wayside
- Forestry presentations
- Tri Creek Recon
- Timber sale bid packet

Parks:

- Construction contract for shed addition
- Spring cleanup preparations



Joshua L. Goede

Shooting Sports

The county 4-H Shooting Sports is trying a new format this year. They are running Archery and Air Rifle concurrently. They have also added a weekly education component. Sessions so far have included overall safety, a certified Boone & Crocket antler scorer, Demonstrations on firearm types, as well as various types of archery equipment. The success of the plan was challenged in a good way as we have 44 youth signed up and average attendance of 38 per Monday. Practices are Monday evening beginning in February and will run thru March.

Child Abuse Prevention Taskforce

The Agent is wrapping up his work with the Monroe County Child Abuse Prevention Taskforce. In 2017 he headed up the Button making contest as well as the helped create a logo and tee shirt. The proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month will be April 4th, 9am at the Sparta School District Administration Building

WI 4-H Space Camp

The Agent will again head south from April 20-24. He will travel to Huntsville, AL with 168 WI 4-Hers, 5 from Monroe County. The Agent is working with the counselors who support the delegates as we travel. This year the counselors are partaking in a different program when we arrive at Space Camp this year. They will be part of the inaugural Pathfinder Robotics Program, a three-day intensive engineering, computer programming, and problem solving experience.

Jr. Leader Meeting

The Jr. Leaders met on March 11th. The day started with a behind the scenes look at Rolling Hills, then they had their business meeting discussing the Summer trip to Chicago, as well as the ice cream stand.

Festival of Arts

The county Festival of Arts was Saturday, March 4 in Sparta. We had over 20 youth perform music, speeches, or demonstrations. We also had many nice arts, crafts, and photos. We used this event to select the photos for our 2018 Plat Book.

Fur, Fin, & Feather

Our annual Fur, Fin, & Feather program is slated on April 1st. This show is a fun competition. There is lots of learning about animals and how to show them. There is also a fun raffle to cover the cost of the show. We have received many entries from as far away as Amherst and Polk County.

Continuing Programs

- Community Learning Centers
 - Working in March. with scientific principles of investigation. The youth discuss proper procedures and terms for science investigation using a bubbles experiment.
 - Jr. Leaders
 - Meeting was March 11, with another scheduled for May
 - Will Plan Clover Camp for June 17th
 - Monroe County Safe Community Coalition
 - Continuing to meet with the Marijuana Work Group
 - Working on training for Alcohol Agent 4 Change
 - Youth Protection Program
 - 3 Adults took the Feb. 11th class.
 - Materials prepared for next 12 adults entering the system.
- COMING SOON
- Fur, Fin, & Feather, April 1
 - Space Camp April 20-24, Huntsville AL
 - Summer Assistant, Jessica Hurtz Starts June 7
 - 2018 Monroe County 4-H Plat Book



Monroe County UW-Extension
14345 County Highway B, Room 1
Sparta, WI 54656-0309

Phone: 608-269-8722
Fax: 608-366-1809
Dial 711 for Wisconsin Relay
<http://monroe.uwex.edu/>

Erin Eggert
Family Living Agent

Family Living Update February 13 to March 14th, 2017

- StrongWomen
 - Getting ready for the April/Spring session. We will have SEVEN classes this session! That's three additional classes! So we now have three classes in Tomah, three in Sparta, and we just added one in Cashton! Registration starts March 20th so we're looking forward to that!
- StrongWomen- Statewide
 - We had a new logo designed that incorporated both men and women- StrongBodies by a local Sparta woman. This logo was originally going to be used across the state of Wisconsin but the *National* program wanted it as well. So the new logo will go nationwide (back side of page)!
 - Still working on online advanced training. Our promotional video was just published and if you go to our StrongWomen Wisconsin webpage you'll see it there! We hope to have this video shared through social media and other websites and increase participation in the StrongWomen/StrongBodies program! (<https://youtu.be/-ovJpUEAi6Q>)
- SW Regional Meeting
 - Held February 28-March 1st in the dells. We talked about nEXT gen and had different sessions that we could attend. I learned a little about grant writing which will help me with our SHFPP project.
- Safe & Healthy Food Pantry Project
 - We met as a workgroup to discuss. We plan to submit a grant but the state is re-doing the grant so they are not releasing the RFP until later in the year (May) so the grant will likely be due around July then.
- Community Health Improvement Plan: Nutrition Workgroup
 - I am on this workgroup and our goal is to increase fruit and vegetable consumption of Monroe County residents. We meet monthly.

Continuing Events

- Newspaper articles to Tomah and Sparta newspapers
- Continuing to post and promote the facebook site and Pinterest site

Upcoming Events



Monroe County Extension Office
14345 County Hwy. B, Room 1
Sparta, WI 54656
608-269-8722
608-269-8767 (FAX)
800-947-3529 (TTY)

Bill Halfman, Agriculture Agent

Agriculture Extension Update February 13, 2017 through March 14, 2017

The annual Winter Crop Management Workshop was held on Thursday February 16th. There were 32 farmers, bankers, and agronomists in attendance at the workshop. Topics covered included an update on corn management considerations, weed management with an emphasis on herbicide resistant weeds, grain price outlook, managing soil compaction, crop insect management update, and soil fertility updates. It was a full day of presentations.

The annual Cattle Feeders Workshop was held on February 23rd. There were 53 participants in attendance. Topics covered were Fed Cattle Traits that Buyers Look For when Determining What to Bid, Nutrition from Weaning to Finish, and Cattle Price Outlook. This workshop is held at 8 locations around the state and the Ag Agent organizes and manages the workshop series.

The Ag Agent was part of the team that conducted the annual UW Extension Bovine Well Being Conference. This conference is a day-long workshop held at one location each year. This year it was at Stratford. The Ag Agent was part of the group that conducted the livestock transportation and the cattle handling presentation/discussions. There were 102 participants at the workshop.

The Ag Agent visited a number of the bedding plant greenhouses in the Cashton area to help investigate problems and check water pH management.

An apple tree pruning workshop was held on March 11th near Tomah. We had 26 participants attend the workshop.

The Ag Agent worked one on one with a number of people on farm management and farm land lease related topics over the past month.

The Ag Agent is working on lining up cooperators for on farm trials this summer. We will be conducting one of the nitrogen rate trials on hops in Monroe County this year, building on last years projects.

The Buffalo, Chippewa and Monroe County Ag Agents hired a student who is attending UW- River Falls to be the summer intern to work on the soil and cover crop projects along with various other crop related projects over the summer.

The Extension Office has hired Jessica Hurtz to be the summer assistant at the office to help with 4-H programming primarily. Jessica is from Cashton and was in 4-H in Monroe County. She is currently an elementary school teacher.

Upcoming Events- more to be added as they get finalized

March 31- April 1- 4-H Shooting Sports leader training

May 5-6 4-H Shooting Sports leader training