



Madeline Island

Wilderness Preserve News

Summer 2004

What Have We Accomplished in 2003?

By Tom Kromroy

The Wilderness Preserve has been in existence for 16 years and has accomplished much to retain the natural beauty of Madeline Island for future generations to enjoy. Through the efforts of our members, and our investment in conservation on Madeline Island, we have been able to permanently protect over 2,500 acres of beautiful natural areas, bogs and woods.

As I begin my term as President of our organization, I would like to thank our outgoing President, Dan Engstrom, for his three years of dedicated service. Dan has worked hard on the management of our forestlands and has been especially involved in the development of a GIS-based mapping system of the Island. We look forward to Dan's continued involvement in our board.

All of our lands are open to the public. MIWP continues to sponsor annual education programs. We offer summer nature hikes and lectures to our membership and the public--free of charge. Last spring the Wilderness Preserve, working in cooperation with the Town of La Pointe, constructed and planted a 600-foot landscape berm along Highway H at the Airport. This project involved the purchase and planting of 36 balled-and-burlapped white spruce trees and more than 2000 pine and spruce seedlings.

This spring the Wilderness Preserve completed the development of a GIS (Geographic Information System) database mapping system for Madeline Island. This system layers different maps of the Island showing roads, buildings, aerial photos, plat maps, vegetation cover, slope and contour, and wetlands. We will present this system to the Town of La Pointe and the County of Ashland for their use in land management and Smart Growth Planning efforts.

In the 1980s, MIWP purchased 1,000 acres of forest on the north end of the Island--the Reuel Harmon Forest--from Werco Wisconsin. Werco, like many other owners of forestland in Wisconsin, had enrolled its holdings in the Forest Crop Land (FCL) program. The FCL program provided substantially lower property taxes in exchange for dedication of the lands to timber production. In the early 1990s Wisconsin created a new tax-incentive program for private forestry, the Managed Forest Land (MFL) program, and encouraged landowners to convert their FCL holdings to MFL. Like the FCL program before it, the MFL contracts



Dolly and Cher hauling timber for Eco Wood Company.

were for 25 years and had a severe penalty for early withdrawal -- repayment of all back taxes. In order to convert to the new MLF program, MIWP needed to develop a forest management plan with a schedule for harvests based on modern silvicultural practices. The plan that our forestry consultant (Clark Forestry of Baraboo, WI) developed was reviewed and accepted by the Wisconsin DNR. This calls for selective thinning of pole-size birch and sugar maple, with limited harvesting of over-mature aspen and birch saw timber on an annual harvest schedule.

MIWP has offered timber for sale on two previous occasions, with little interest from logging companies. The cost of removing the timber from the Island was simply too high to justify much interest and we did not receive any bids. This year we again offered a timber sale on 120 acres and received more interest than before. We have awarded a contract to Dan Schuppe of Eco Wood Company. Dan and his family have recently moved to the Island and plan to process forest products into flooring and paneling on the Island instead of hauling the logs off the Island for processing. [\(Continued on page 4\)](#)

Summer 2004 Program

*Evening lectures are co-sponsored by the
Madeline Island Historical Museum*

Saturday, May 29th, from 9–11:00 a.m.

"Spring Bird Migration on Madeline"

Join seasoned birders Peter Hudleston and Victoria Erhart for an ornithological exploration of the varied habitats of Big Bay Park -- right at the peak of spring bird migration. Peter is Professor of Geology at the U of MN and Victoria is a MIWP board member and Island summer resident. Meet at the Town Park parking area. Bring binoculars, bird guides, and some young birders!



Sunday, May 30th, at 11:30 a.m.

MIWP's 16th Spring Luncheon and Annual Meeting

"Unraveling the Mysteries of Monarch Migrations: From Madeline Island to Mexico"

Don't miss this exceptional presentation on monarch butterfly ecology given by Dr. Karen Oberhauser, U of MN.
(see detailed announcement, page 4). At The Clubhouse.

Saturday, July 3rd, from 9–11:00 a.m. "The Bog Orchids of Big Bay"

Wade into the floating bogs of Big Bay Lagoon with Tom Gerstenberger--orchid expert, science teacher, and perennial favorite of the MIWP's summer programs. See rare and exquisite orchids, insectivorous plants, and other beauties that most hikers miss. Meet at the Town Park (parking area). Wear boots or old sneakers.

Saturday, July 24th, 9:00-11:00 a.m. "Edible and Medicinal Plants of Madeline Island"

Join Marina Lachecki, plant expert extraordinaire and Pastor of St. John's Church, for her popular botanical hike at Big Bay. Learn to identify plants and flowers, including many that are edible or medicinal. Meet in the parking area of the Town Park (note change of location this year).

Thursday, July 29th, at 7:00 p.m. "Living with the Lake: The Changing Levels of Lake Superior"

Why is the lake level currently low? How does it change seasonally and from year to year? Are the fluctuations natural or man-made? Find out these answers and more from John Kangas, Great Lakes Hydrologist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. At the Museum.

Thursday, August 5th, at 7:00 p.m. "Mapping Madeline: Assessing the Present, Planning the Future"

A presentation of Madeline Island's new Geographic Information System (GIS) by one of its creators, Andy Jenks, of the College of Natural Resources at the U of MN. Get a new perspective on the geography of our Island and learn just how GIS works and how it can help inform land-use decisions. Lecture held at the Madeline Island Museum.

Saturday, August 21st, 9-11 a.m. "Sustainable Forestry: What is Healthy and Natural?"

Hike the preserve's Reuel Harmon Forest on the north end of the Island with Ecological Forester Dan Pubanz of Clark Forestry, Baraboo, WI. Learn about MIWP's management plans to improve the diversity and health of its forests. Clark Forestry's clients include the Nature Conservancy and other land conservation organizations. Meet at the Reuel Harmon Forest sign on School House Road (about 1/2 mile from the intersection with County Road H).

All events are free (except for the Spring Luncheon) and open to the public

16TH SPRING LUNCHEON AND ANNUAL MEETING

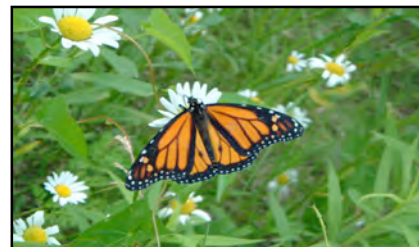
The Wilderness Preserve will be hosting its 16th Spring Luncheon and Annual Meeting this coming Memorial Day weekend, Sunday May 30th, at The Clubhouse on Madeline Island. As with past luncheon events, we invite our members and friends to rekindle their ties to the Island, share in a gourmet meal, and hear a fascinating presentation on the natural history of the Lake Superior region by a guest speaker. Many thanks to the Madeline Island Music Camp for providing The Clubhouse for this event. This year's luncheon buffet, featuring a salmon or vegetarian main-course option, will be provided by Twin Gables Café Catering of Brule. A social gathering begins at 11:30 a.m., with seating at noon.

Our program will feature a richly illustrated presentation on one of the earth's most amazing animal migrations.

“UNRAVELING THE MYSTERIES OF MONARCH MIGRATION: FROM MADELINE ISLAND TO MEXICO”

By Dr. Karen Oberhauser of the University of Minnesota

It was only as recently as 1975 that scientists proved that monarch butterflies migrate great distances to wintering sites. In that year, a monarch that had been banded by a volunteer in Minnesota was located in Central Mexico, and one of the great examples of “Citizen Science” began. Share in the tale of the monarch’s perilous migration and amazing life history, and how it is being uncovered through an innovative partnership between scientists and teachers, students and volunteers across the hemisphere.



Karen Oberhauser earned a Bachelors Degree in Biology from Harvard University, and a Ph.D. in Ecology, Evolution and Behavioral Biology from the University of Minnesota. As a faculty member in the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology, she and her graduate students study habitat use by monarchs and other butterflies; monarch disease and reproductive ecology; and migration and over-wintering biology. She is Director of the *Monarchs in the Classroom* program at the University, where she works with teachers and citizens across the nation in extensive outreach and citizen science projects.

SPRING LUNCHEON MENU

Appetizers

Assorted olives, Cornichons and homemade breads

Salad

Crisp baby field greens tossed with light vinaigrette,
topped with rich caramelized onions, blue cheese and balsamic reduction

Choice of One Entrée:

Fresh Grilled Fillet of Atlantic Salmon Over A Delightful Basil Pesto Linguini

Or

Grilled Portabella Mushrooms and Roasted Red Peppers over Pesto Linguini

Dessert

French Silk Pie

Gourmet Coffees and Teas

Twin Gables Café ‘Private Estate Blend’ Coffees (regular & decaffeinated)

Assorted Hot Teas



The price of the Spring Luncheon and Program is \$27 per person.

Reservations can be made (through May 25th) by contacting MIWP Treasurer Russ Fridley,
740 Amber Drive, Shoreview, MN 55126 ☞ (651-484-1542) ☞ Email at jlfb@earthlink.net.

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MIWP: 2003 Accomplishments...

As Dan states, “Eco Wood Company provides the landowner with an alternative to the typical logging practices that are currently used. We take great pride and joy in our work and feel like we offer landowners a unique and needed service. We are devoted to environmental integrity and firmly believe that what we leave *in* the forest is far more important than what we take *out*.” Dan works with a team of Belgian horses--Dolly and Cher--to drag the timber out of the forest, thus reducing the damage to the remaining trees and forest floor. By contracting with Eco Wood, a locally-owned Island business, we believe that we can fulfill our obligations to the MLF program and, at the same time, use an ecologically-friendly and low-impact logging approach. Harvesting of timber is scheduled to begin when the forest floor dries out in August and continue through the winter months.

The Reuel Harmon Forest will remain in the MLF program until December 31, 2021. Timber offers will be continued thought this period and it is our objective to complete our obligation in accordance with our management goals to enhance the ecological qualities of the forest over the long term.

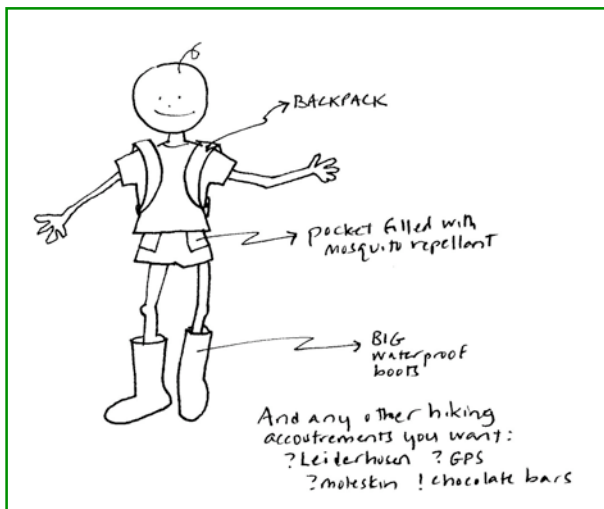


Fourth of July Parade: Come Join the Fun!



The twice-in-a-row, award-winning, and always optimistic MIWP Marching Non-Band is once again delighted to invite you to participate in what will certainly be the high point of the 2004 Parade Season: The MIWP Fourth of July ‘March-And-Shuffle’ Float.

Coming off our astounding First Place finish in 2003, we are going to try for the whole enchilada this year with a poignant commentary on...tada...The MIWP Trail System. Costumes are easy: big waterproof boots, a backpack, and plenty of mosquito repellent. Creativity, as always, is encouraged. Children and pets with a flair for the dramatic are welcome. See you there!



- ❖ The MIWP does not discriminate with respect to age, sex, or species.
- ❖ Everyone is welcome, especially if they are well-behaved or on a leash.
- ❖ Plan to meet at the Marina, 30 minutes before the parade, under the MIWP banner.
- ❖ Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Call Toria Erhart at 747-2277 June 28 – July 1, and late July 3rd.